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Tehran pounded as Iran launches ground offensive

Iraq intensifies missile attack

BAGHDAD, March 14, (Agencies): Iraq said it fired seven missiles at Tehran and its planes raided targets in six Iranian towns today as Baghdad and several border centres came under Iranian fire. Iran also launched its second offensive along the northern battlefield today.

A military spokesman said the raids were in retaliation for Iran breaking a short-lived unofficial truce to end a two-week flareup in the "war of the cities."

He said an Iranian missile smashed into a residential area of Baghdad at 11.55 am (0855 GMT), killing or wounding a number of people in the first such strike on the capital since last Thursday. Iran said it fired two missiles.

Iran threatened today to turn Baghdad into an inferno for missile attacks on Tehran.

Weaken

Tehran Radio, quoted Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi as saying Iraqi attacks would not weaken Tehran's resolve to deal stronger counter-blows in punishment for Baghdad's aggression.

Iraq also said it launched a missile against Tehran last night and seven more rockets today.

Iraq's official news agency INA, said 13 civilians were killed and 70 injured after Iranian artillery and missiles started hitting the southern port of Basra late yesterday.

INA said the casualties included women and children, as well as patients and staff at a hospital damaged in the barrage. "We declare to the Iranian people that any aggression on any Iraqi city, village or civil area is considered an aggression on all Iraq and we will reply to this aggression," an Iraqi military spokesman said.

Wounded

In the northern Kurdish town of Sulaymaniyah, a doctor said that his hospital had received 75 patients wounded by shells falling on the area since last night.

The military spokesman in Baghdad said Iraqi jets raided economic and military targets in six western and southwestern Iranian towns including Dezful and Kermanshah today before returning safely to base.

INA said Iraqi helicopters shot down a US-made Iranian Bell helicopter today and it was seen falling in flames. It did not give a location.

The spokesman said Iranian shelling was intensive until this afternoon on Basra, the southern

town of Qurnah and the northern town of Halahja, which reporters were advised to avoid. He earlier said Iranian artillery was shelling "almost all Iraqi border towns."

Shelling

"The continuation of Iranian shelling of residential areas means that we will go on attacking not only Tehran but also other Iranian towns," he said.

The missile attacks threatened to unleash a new round in the "war of the cities" — strikes on the civilians of Iran and Iraq that have killed thousands of people since 1983.

Hundreds of people were killed in nearly two weeks of missile attacks on Tehran and Baghdad that were brought to an end last Friday by a fragile truce. More than 60 missiles struck Tehran during the blitz and more than 30 hit Baghdad.

Under the truce, Iraq had demanded that Iran end all strikes on Iraqi cities and attacks along the battlefield. Iraq vowed it would resume attacks on Tehran if Iran violated the truce.

Iraq said today that it launched its second offensive along the northern battlefield in Sulaymaniyah province during the past two days, killing or wounding more than 1,000 Iraqi

soldiers and capturing several strategic heights.

Iraq said it launched the first offensive in Sulaymaniyah province yesterday morning. Iraq, without releasing a specific location, said it crushed an Iranian border attack yesterday.

Operation

Iraq said it launched the operation yesterday, code-named "Victory-7" in retaliation for the recent round of Iraqi air raids and missile attacks on the cities of Iran.

An Iraqi military spokesman said today an Iraqi warship attacked a tanker serving the coastal oil facilities of Iran. Iraq has claimed five attacks on tankers in the past week.

Iraq has refrained from attacking merchant vessels in the vital waterway since Feb 12, when Iranian forces attacked and set ablaze the Danish tanker Kate Maersk.

Ahmad League Secretary General Chadi Al Kibi urged Iran today to respond to UN efforts to end its war with Iraq. "I renew from this forum a call on Iran to opt for peace... and create conditions for the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the region," Kibi told the opening session of an Arab energy conference in Baghdad.



Secretary of State George Shultz shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir upon his arrival in Washington. (Rauter wirephoto)

Shamir drags his feet over US peace plan

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, arriving for delicate talks with US leaders, said today he would not reply to new US peace proposals during his stay here because of Israel's internal divisions.

"Everybody in Israel wants peace, but the question is at what price and what will Israel be after peace," the headline Shamir was quoted as saying by his spokesman Avi Pazner.

"That's why I decided not to take any decision now as to the (Secretary of State George) Shultz proposals," Pazner quoted him as telling American Jewish leaders who met him during a brief stopover in New York on his way to Washington.

Divided

"The Israeli people are divided, and I don't think that you can make peace with the consent of only half the people," Pazner quoted Shamir as saying. "We'll make a tremendous effort to reach an agreement with the US, and it will be up to the Israeli cabinet to decide on my return."

Shamir told Israeli newspapers last week that he rejected the US initiative outright, but he was more conciliatory in US press interviews published over the weekend.

He held brief talks with Shultz on arrival in Washington and was due to meet Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci later in the day. He holds formal talks with Shultz tomorrow and with

President Reagan on Wednesday.

Pazner quoted Shultz as telling Shamir that even if there were differences between Israel and the United States, there was a need to promote those aspects of the relationship that united the two countries.

Some US officials have made little secret of their opinion that Shamir's views are a big obstacle to progress on a Middle East settlement, and even some prominent pro-Israeli senators have criticised his intransigence.

Speaking on arriving in Washington, Shamir said he wanted the US-sponsored Camp David accord of 1978 to serve as the basis for a settlement. "If past accords are shunned, future agreement will be meaningless," he said.

Criticism

Shamir's fundamental criticism of the new US plan, which Shultz unveiled during a swing through Middle Eastern capitals earlier this month, is that it raises the prospect of Israel giving up occupied Palestinian land for a peace accord.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Labour Party are more supportive of the US plan, but Shamir's aides say Israeli public opinion is swinging behind the prime minister and that his right-wing Likud bloc could win a snap election.

The next Israeli election is set for November, but the United States wants an international conference as early as April to

pave the way for dual talks this year on interim Palestinian self-rule and on a final Arab-Israeli settlement.

Syria and the PLO have rejected the US plan, while Jordan has said it is still studying it. Only Egypt, which would have a small direct role in the peace talks, has shown enthusiasm.

US officials regard the attitude of Jordan's King Hussein as crucial, since they are counting on him to put together a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

Refuses

A sticking point is that all Arab states say the PLO must have a big role in peace talks. Israel flatly refuses all contacts with the PLO, and the United States says the PLO must accept Israel's right to exist if it is to be a peace partner.

In Amman Jordanian officials said the King, planned to visit Saudi Arabia in the next day or two to see King Fahd and might also go to Oman and other Gulf states before responding to Washington's proposals.

In Washington, more than 3,500 people carrying Palestinian flags and chanting slogans marched to the White House yesterday to protest Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Many of the protesters carried signs saying, "Israelis: stop killing babies" and "Palestinians deserve statehood."

Crimes in US remain at a low

WASHINGTON, March 14, (UPI): Overall crime in the United States remains at a record low nationwide, the Justice Department reports, but people should make sure to lock their cars because auto thieves did 15 per cent more business in 1987 than in 1986.

The national crime survey, compiled by the department's bureau of justice statistics,

estimated 34,419,780 crimes last year after 34,118,310 and 1986, a scant 0.9 per cent increase from the lowest rate in 14 years.

The survey, first taken in 1973, includes data on rape, robbery, assault, theft, burglary, household larceny and motor vehicle theft. Murder is not included because the data is gathered from crime victims.

Bureau Director Steven

Schlesinger noted in a news release yesterday "after showing a downward trend during the first part of the 1980s, total crime has remained stable."

"Only motor vehicle thefts grew significantly — by 15 per cent — from an estimated 1.4 million thefts in 1986 to 1.6 million in 1987, according to the bureau's preliminary data for last year," Schlesinger said.

US will have to use force to evict PLO: Terzi

UNITED NATIONS, March 14, (Reuters): The PLO's UN envoy, threatened with the forcible closing of his organisation's mission to the world body, said today American authorities would have to use force to make him leave.

Zehdi Lahib Terzi told reporters: "We have the right to stay here and we will stay here."

He said repeatedly that the PLO was accredited to the UN, not to the United States.

"The United States, as a host country, is under an obligation to respect that accreditation," Terzi said. Asked if he would vacate the mission in Manhattan next Monday, the deadline set by US Attorney-General Edwin Meese for closing it, the PLO representative replied: "The only way they can make me leave is to put me behind steel bars and take me away."

Coalition offer

ISLAMABAD, March 14, (Reuters): Afghan President Najib renewed today his offer of talks with anti-communist guerrillas on the formation of a coalition government. But, in an interview broadcast by the official Kabul Radio, he again rejected Pakistan's demand for a transitional government to oversee the withdrawal of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

trip to Egypt in a decade. Mubarak earlier met Palestinian envoy Said Kamal, who delivered a message from the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Presidential adviser Osama Baz declined to disclose its contents but said their talks focused on the PLO's position on recent peace efforts, including a US plan rejected by Israel.

Palestinian sources said Arafat outlined in the letter the PLO's response to the proposals advanced by US Secretary of State George Shultz for resolving the problem of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO has rejected the Shultz plan publicly, but officials did not say whether the rejection was included in Arafat's letter.

The PLO, in a hardening of its position, now refuses to form a joint delegation with Jordan for participation in the future peace talks. The PLO insists that the Palestinians be represented by an independent delegation.

Zayed, Mubarak hold talks

Call for united stand on Gulf war

CAIRO, March 14, (Agencies): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) called today for a united Arab stand to make peace between Iran and Iraq.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Shariif told reporters Mubarak and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan also agreed to consult with Arab leaders to ease tension in the Gulf and stop the war expanding.

"Arabs must cooperate to put an end to this bloodshed in the interest of the two countries, the entire region and world peace," Shariif said. Both countries support Iraq in the war.

Campaign

"The two leaders stressed that the Gulf's security is the same as Egypt's security," he added.

Shariif said Sheikh Zayed, who began a three-day state visit yesterday, announced support for Mubarak's campaign for peace in the Middle East. It is his first

tion in Dhaka demanding Bangladesh be made an Islamic republic.

Ershad yesterday, attacked a coalition of 21 opposition parties that boycotted the March 3 parliamentary elections in a bid to topple his government.

"What kind of democracy they want? Democracy and non-participation, in elections are contradictory. And the nation will not wait for them," he said.

Main opposition leaders Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairman Begum Khaleda Zia, have denounced the violence-packed polls as a farce and fraud.

24 Pakistanis die in avalanche

ISLAMABAD, March 14, (Reuters): An avalanche struck a remote village in northern Pakistan, killing 24 people, the official APP news agency said today.

APP said the avalanche hit Korak in the Pakistani portion of the Himalayan state of Kashmir on Friday night and destroyed homes and irrigation works.

Rajiv facing national strike

NEWDELHI, March 14, (Agencies): Opposition members of the Indian Parliament staged a walk-out today ahead of a one-day national strike to protest against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's policies.

Nearly all opposition members of the Lower House left the chamber to dramatise support for the strike tomorrow, a major challenge to Rajiv by opposition parties demanding an election before the government's term ends next year.

Majority

Meanwhile, the government was set to introduce in Parliament a legislation that would allow it to declare an emergency in violence-torn Punjab, under which it could retain control of the state for up to three years and suspend civil rights.

The Upper House of

Parliament scheduled a debate on proposed constitutional amendments sponsored by Rajiv's Congress (I) Party that would arm the government with sweeping new powers to administer Punjab.

The ruling party controls 151 of the 245 seats in the upper house, or Rajya Sabha, short of the two-thirds majority required to amend the constitution and was expected to seek the support of independents and small, allied parties.

Major opposition groups announced they would fight the proposals, claiming the measures would concentrate too much power in the hands of the government and set a dangerous precedent.

The measures would permit President Venkataraman, at Rajiv's behest, to declare an emergency in Punjab due to

"internal disturbance" and extend for up to three years New Delhi's control of the state.

Sikh extremists shot dead 13 people, including a family of four, in separate incidents in Punjab, police said today.

The strike called by the opposition could affect most public services, especially transportation, and could shut many private and public enterprises across the country.

Failure

The success or failure of the "Bharat bandh" (All-India strike) will also show the ability of the fragmented opposition to effectively unite to fight ruling Congress (I) Party at the polls.

Rajiv's government has been carrying out a radio and television counter-offensive against the strike and has mobilised security forces to prevent

violence and property damage. Officials in Punjab said 140,000 police and security personnel were on maximum alert to guard key public buildings and railway tracks.

Opposition sources in the Punjab state capital Chandigarh said all schools and colleges would be closed for the day. They said they expected full support from the drivers of more than 5,000 trucks that ferry goods around the state.

No major incidents have so far been reported but the Press Trust of India (PTI) said 10 people, including two policemen, were injured in clashes at a state-run machine tool factory in the south India state of Kerala.

In Calcutta, the capital of West Bengal state, several flights had to be cancelled as airline employees began a three-day walk-out as part of the national strike.

Israel to seal off Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV, March 14, (Agencies): Israeli Army officials said they would seal off the occupied Gaza Strip, home to 650,000 Palestinians, tonight to prevent what they called hostile elements from entering.

Officials said they would close the entrances and bar residents from leaving their homes from 10 pm to 3 am in the Strip, where hundreds of Arab policemen have resigned at the request of leaders of the 13-week-old Palestinian uprising.

The closure of the Gaza Strip, unprecedented during the uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, was ordered "to prevent entry of hostile elements," a military official said.

Confirm

The officials could not immediately confirm an Israel Radio report that the curfew would be in force nightly until further notice.

The radio said the action was to prevent inciters and what it called "violent extremists" from entering and threatening the lives of residents. The radio said another aim was to keep out inflammatory leaflets.

It was unclear how much the action was a response to the resignations of Arab policemen.

Military officials have said the policemen were forced to quit under threat of death or damage to their homes, and at least 250 Arab policemen have resigned in Gaza city alone.

Last August, the Army barred residents from leaving the Gaza Strip for three days after the killing by Palestinians of Israel's military police commander there.

Wounded

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli troops shot and wounded nine Palestinians while dispersing a crowd attacking the home of an Arab villager they accused of collaborating with Israel, an Army spokesman said.

Troops opened fire when Palestinians attacked the man's home in the Elyamun village near Jenin, he added. The Army immediately clamped a curfew on the village.

Since a Palestinian uprising began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Dec 9, demonstrators have killed an Arab policeman and lynched a Palestinian they accused of being an informant for the Israeli authorities.

Hundreds of Arab policemen in Gaza announced their resignations today and dozens handed in their uniforms and equipment despite attempts by their commanders to dissuade them.

"For a number of days, we have been involved in talks with the local police, but without much success at this point," assistant Gaza police commander Shimon Levy told Israel radio. "It became evident from the talks, however, that they did not want to resign but feared for their lives."

At least half of the 1,000 Arab policemen serving in Israel's force in Gaza and the West Bank have handed in resignations in response to a call by the clandestine leadership of the uprising in which at least 91 Palestinians have died.

Hurled

Israeli military authorities banned fuel deliveries to the West Bank for a second consecutive day today after Palestinians hurled stones and fire bombs at Israeli tankers.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the ban on fuel was a security precaution and denied Palestinian suggestions that it was one of a series of economic sanctions designed to end the uprising.

"After some attacks on fuel tankers in the West Bank last week, it was decided to lower the number of trucks that are going into the West Bank and for the time being only vital institutions will get fuel supply," the spokesman said.

Palestinian sources said many petrol stations were closed and Arab motorists were forced to drive into Israel for petrol. There was also a shortage in kerosene for home heating and cooking, they added.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

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- جنگ بھارت اور پاکستان
- پاکستان کے شمالی علاقوں میں
- برقی توانی کرنے سے ایک گاؤں
- دہلی ہو گیا
- کراچی ایئرپورٹ دنیا کا سب سے غیر محفوظ ایئرپورٹ
- معراج الہی کے موقع پر خصوصی مقبول
- پوشیدگی

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will remain below normal with moderate to fresh north-westerly wind causing rising dust. State of sea: moderate to rough. High water: 11.00 am, 9.00 pm. Low water: 4.00 am, 4.00 pm. Sunrise: 5.58 am. Sunset: 5.56 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 23°C 73°F. Bahala: 21°C 70°F. Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 22°C 72°F. Bahala: 20°C 68°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 23 per cent. Bahala: 16°C 61°F. Minimum humidity expected: Kuwait: 25 per cent. Bahala: 48 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL

Bertolucci wins Director's Guild of America award

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., March 14, (Agencies): Bernardo Bertolucci won the coveted Director's Guild of America award for "The Last Emperor," a victory that makes him the favourite for this year's Oscar as best director.

The winner of the Director's Guild Award for a motion picture has gone on to win the best director Academy Award in 37 of the past 40 years.

The Italian filmmaker called for more sophistication in movie making and less imitation of television, as he accepted the award on Saturday night from last year's winner, Oliver Stone, before 2,000 directors and guests at the Beverly Hilton hotel.

"Film is an international language that demonstrates no difference of the classes. The cinema is a marvellous and dangerous weapon when it is wielded by a free spirit," Bertolucci said.

Intimidated
"Too many movies have been intimidated by television," he said. "Movies have tried to imitate the... language of television."

Bertolucci, who turns 47 next week, defeated James Brooks for "Broadcast News," Adrian Lyne for "Fatal Attraction," Lasse Hallstrom for "My Life as a Dog," and Steven Spielberg for "Empire of the Sun."

Spielberg was the last exception to the DGA-Academy Award connection, he won the guild award for "The Color Purple" in 1985 but was not even nominated for the Oscar.

Lyne and Hallstrom are also

up for this year's best-director Oscar in the April 11 awards presentation.

Meanwhile, comedian Bill Cosby won four People's Choice Awards and the movie "Fatal Attraction" won three from an admiring public that also bestowed honours on Cybill Shepherd, Dolly Parton and Whitney Houston.

"This is particularly special for me," said Miss Shepherd, named favourite female television performer for her role in the "Moonlighting" series on the ABC broadcasting network.

The public chose the winners in the 14th annual People's Choice Awards, broadcast last night.

Winners were determined by a Gallup poll of 5,000 people older than 12, a statistical representation of nearly 196 million people.

Cosby was named favourite male TV performer for the fourth consecutive year and favourite all-around male entertainer for the third. He also won a new award — all-time favourite TV star — while his series on the NBC broadcasting network, "The Cosby Show," won its fourth comedy programme award.

"L.A. Law" on the NBC broadcasting network was the favourite TV dramatic programme.

"Three Men and a Cradle" won for comedy movie and "Fatal Attraction" for dramatic motion picture. Its leads, Michael Douglas and Glenn Close, were picked top motion picture performers.

4 killed, 8 wounded in Lebanon violence

BEIRUT, March 14, (AP): Four people were killed and eight wounded in 24 hours of scattered shooting and bombings in Lebanon, police said today.

The violence reflected tensions between rival forces in the strife-torn country that have simmered despite a lull in the 13-year-old civil war and factional feuding.

Police identified the slain as two officers from the Lebanese Forces, the "Christian" militia, another from Druze leader Walid Jumblatt's progressive Socialist Party militia and a Palestinian commando.

Motive
Among the casualties was Nimeh Hamieh, a Shiite Muslim attorney, critically wounded when a time-bomb exploded on a window ledge outside the bathroom of his West Beirut apartment as he was shaving today, police said.

Hamieh, a former chairman of Lebanon's Bar Association, was

rushed to the Barbir hospital by neighbours, police said. They declined to speculate on the motive for the assassination attempt.

The two Lebanese Forces officers were killed yesterday by bodyguards of President Amin Gemayel's 18-year-old son, Pierre, in a quarrel in a traffic-jammed street in the Christian port of Jounieh, 12 1/2 miles (20 kilometres) north of Beirut, police said.

The militia command identified them as Lt. George Shawah and First Lt. Ziad Habbish.

Police said that the young Gemayel's bodyguards fired shots in the air to clear a way through the traffic jam for the car in which the president's son was riding.

The two Lebanese Forces officers ran out from a nearby cafe to find out what was happening and began arguing with Gemayel's men.

Indian Navy intercepts gun-runners

Boat with arms for Tigers seized

COLOMBO, March 14, (Agencies): An Indian naval vessel seized a boat off south India apparently ferrying arms and ammunition to Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas, Indian and Sri Lankan officials said today.

An Indian high commission spokeswoman said the boat was intercepted on Saturday night off South India as it was transferring the arms to two smaller high-speed boats.

"The men who were unloading arms and ammunition into the small boats dumped the goods

into the sea and escaped," she said.

She said 30,000 electrical detonators, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, automatic rifle spares and some Sri Lankan Army uniforms were found on the vessel which had no markings.

A Sri Lankan military official said the arms were probably intended for Tamil separatist guerrillas. "The Army uniforms is a sure indicator that the consignment was meant for our terrorists," he said.

Sri Lankan guerrilla groups often smuggle weapons and ammunition across the Palk Strait from Madras in south India.

But after an accord to end the Tamil separatist revolt signed between India and Sri Lanka last July, naval patrols have reduced the gun-running, military officials said.

Indian peace-keeping troops in eastern Sri Lanka fired warning shots to disperse 5,000 demonstrators in Batticaloa today, residents said. There were

no casualties, they said.

The march was to demonstrate support for a 58-year-old woman on a hunger strike to back demands for an end to fighting between Indian soldiers and Tamil rebels resisting the Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

Deserted

David Annamma, on the 23rd day of her fast at a Hindu temple, was reported to be in a critical condition and was attended by doctors.

In Matara district in the south, police shot dead three suspected

members of an outlawed Marxist group also opposed to the accord, today.

Meanwhile the independent Island newspaper reported today that nearly 2,250 security men, mostly soldiers, have deserted their posts since last year and joined an extremist Sinhalese organisation.

The newspaper quoted unidentified senior security officers as saying that the deserters have become members of the hit squads of the ultra-nationalist People's Liberation Front.

Karachi is most 'hijack prone' airport

ISLAMABAD, March 14, (Kuna): Karachi International Airport is the most hijack prone airport in the world, according to two Pakistani newspapers.

With four hijacking incidents over the last 10 years the Karachi airport will now be considered as one of the world's most insecure airports, the English daily Muslim of Islamabad said in a front-page analysis today.

Quoting a civil aviation official the newspaper said that at no other international airport, terrorists have managed to break the security rings to reach the aircraft four times in the last decade.

Commenting on the abortive attempt of a man from Baluchistan to hijack a Pakistan Airlines Airbus on Saturday during a flight from Karachi to Quetta, it said that the security lapse occurred at Karachi airport despite reported alert to that effect.

The newspaper said that the airport security force headquarters had been warned twice in the last few weeks of a possible hijacking attempt at Karachi.

Amateur

The Nation, of Lahore, in an editorial headlined, "A haven for amateur hijackers," said that the Karachi incident, apart from causing insecurity among prospective passengers, had exposed Pakistan's weakest point in security matters.

It said airport security could not be treated lightly. It was inexcusable that the X-ray machine at the Karachi airport was out of order.

Had the attempt of the hijacker succeeded the plane would have gone to Kahul with 182 passengers, who included two ministers, two members of Baluchistan Assembly and one senator.

Other newspapers in Pakistan today reported that hijacker Abdul Mannan Achakzai was an agent of Kabul secret service Khad

Filipino Muslim bid to join OIC backed by a million

MANILA, March 14, (Reuters): Muslim rebel spokesmen said today they had a million signatures to back an effort to join the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), a bid which has spawned new talk of war.

A leading Muslim senator sharply criticised the rebel bid in a growing split between moderates in the country's Muslim minority and the militant Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Army.

"I plead with (the OIC) both as a Muslim and a Filipino that they should not listen to forces that would want to stampede us into war," Mamintan Tamano told the Senate today.

Misguided

"These people are misguided," he said of the front's push for virtual government-in-exile status like that given by the pan-Islamic group to the Palestine Liberation Front.

MNLF spokesman Sharif Zain Jali showed reporters a huge pile of petition forms which he said contained one million signatures from Muslims backing the bid to join the OIC.

The 44-member organisation will meet in Jordan next Mon-

day, and it's expected vote on the MNLF request is being anxiously awaited in Manila.

Aquino is anxious to prove before the OIC vote that she is sincere in her promise of greater self-government for the country's five million Muslims.

Traitor
Today she named 50 members, including Dambong Sali, a former senior officer in the Moro Rebel Army, to a regional consultative commission covering 13 southern provinces where most Muslims live.

MNLF spokesmen have said any Muslim cooperating with the new group would be regarded as a traitor.

The military said it is on full alert in Mindanao and other southern islands and Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos appealed for calm, telling reporters that violence by Muslims would only bring more violence, hardship and suffering.

Unconfirmed newspaper reports have said large arms shipments were recently delivered to the rebels.

● In a separate development Philippine Church groups today

accused the military of killing two families, raiding a convent and burning down houses, and challenged President Aquino to prosecute those responsible.

"The soldiers shot my mother and my father, then they shot me," said six-year-old Ronaldo Guzman, presented by churchmen as the lone survivor of a previously unreported massacre of two families in northern Aurora province on January 23.

The churchmen said more than 1,000 villagers in the region had fled from Army abuses. Soldiers looking for rebels in Aurora raided and damaged a convent and a church office on Jan 15 and burned down seven peasant houses the following day, they said.

The allegations come a week after London-based Amnesty International released a report accusing Aquino's Army of human rights abuses in its war against 19-year-old communist insurgency.

Gorbachev in Belgrade

BELGRADE, March 14, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made an impromptu foray into a cheering Belgrade crowd today and declared: "We can be proud of our common history."

Hundreds of Yugoslavs had gathered opposite a monument to soldiers who died in the 1944 liberation of Belgrade, one of Gorbachev's first stops after arriving on the first official visit by a Kremlin leader to Yugoslavia in 12 years.

Clearly taking the strong security force by surprise, Gorbachev strode into the crowd to shouts of "Mikhail, Mikhail."

"We must know that in all times, our peoples feel friendship," he said. "We are pleased that our relations now are very good, and I think they will be better."

Dole keeps fighting as Bush looks beyond Illinois

CHICAGO, March 14, (Reuters): Senator Bob Dole will keep fighting for the Republican presidential nomination whatever happens at tomorrow's Illinois primary, but Vice-President Bush is already looking ahead to November's presidential elections.

Although polls show Kansas Senator Dole trailing by more than two to one, the Senate Republican leader vows he will stay in the race, even if he loses in Illinois.

In the Democratic race, a new Chicago Tribune poll published today showed Chicago-based civil rights activist Jesse Jackson moving into the lead with 32 per cent after an easy victory on Saturday in South Carolina.

Illinois Senator Paul Simon slipped into second place with 29 per cent and Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, apparently picking up votes from Simon, improved his third place showing to 20 per cent.

Despite the heavy odds, Dole said he has been urged by leading Republicans to stay in the race, including a letter from former President Richard Nixon.

"I believe I have some obligation — not to look ridiculous — but some obligation to stay in this race and let the American people sort of step back and take a look and then I believe they'll make the judgment that Bob Dole is the strongest candidate," Dole told US television.

"We still believe the people of Illinois are going to support that effort. We may not win, but we're going to do very well here."

Dole is fighting for survival in Illinois, with its large bloc of 92 delegates to the Republican nominating convention in New Orleans this August.

A win by Bush in Illinois would virtually nail down the nomination, and some Dole aides have suggested he call it quits if he loses there.

● Buoyed by big wins in 16

Republican primaries on Super Tuesday, Bush goes into Illinois with 774 of the 1,139 delegate votes needed to get the nomination.



Bongo stresses need for foreign assistance

GABON celebrated on Saturday the 20th anniversary of its President Omar Bongo's assumption of power. The celebration slogan "Renewal and youth" was emphasised in the President's opening speech when he spoke of the progress made in his country's education and health programmes.

At the celebrations, which also marked the 20th anniversary of the ruling Gabon Democratic Party, Bongo stressed the need to provide necessary facilities to utilise Gabon's natural resources through foreign investments, foreign assistance and local manpower resources.

The Presidents of Zaïre, Cameroun, the Congo and Chad were among the 10 of the African Presidents attending the celebration. Official Arab delegations, including the official delegation from Morocco headed by Princess Aisha, the sister of King Hassan II, and representatives of 30 countries were also in attendance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blast hurts two

ANKARA, March 14, (Reuters): A blast today at a Turkish state arms factory near Ankara injured two people, one of them seriously, Anatolian news agency said.

It said it was not immediately known what caused the explosion.

First woman envoy

DAMASCUS, March 14, (Reuters): President Hafez Al Assad swore in Syria's first woman ambassador today, officials said.

They said Saba Nasser, 46, would be ambassador to Belgium, where she has been Charge d'Affaires for the last two years.

Nasser, an unmarried law graduate, was one of 10 new envoys taking the oath today.

Smugglers

CAIRO, March 14, (UPI): Smugglers kidnapped two police officers today and sped away in a motorboat but surrendered or escaped after a four-hour chase on the waters of Lake Manzala in northern Egypt, the Middle East News Agency said.

It said the smugglers hurled Molotov cocktails and exchanged gunfire with their pursuers. Three smugglers suffered injuries and were arrested and three others surrendered, but six escaped.

Cultural centre

CAIRO, March 14, (Reuters): The Soviet Cultural Centre in Cairo, shut by Egypt for 10 years, has just reopened in a new sign of steadily improving relations, officials of both governments said today.

It was closed in December 1977 by the late President Anwar Sadat along with other Soviet cultural centres and consulates in Egypt.

Troop pullout

ATHENS, March 14, (UPI): Cypriot President George Vassiliou called today for the withdrawal of Turkish troops from his country as the key to any settlement of the 14-year-old division of Cyprus.

Greek officials said the appeal marked an important concession by the Greek Cypriot side, which previously has insisted on a Turkish troop withdrawal before talks could even commence.

● The officials said the appeal was also a cue for Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to make a gesture of goodwill after the recent thaw in relations between NATO allies Greece and Turkey.

Mitterrand

PARIS, March 14, (UPI): President Mitterrand flew today to West Germany for his second-to-last round of foreign talks before the French presidential elections just six weeks off, while at home certainty mounted that he will soon declare his candidacy.

As Mitterrand talked for four hours with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the black forest town of Durbach, just over the border, Parisian commentators examined new evidence that he will seek another term.

Illegal immigrants

OTTAWA, March 14, (Kuna): Canada has ordered two thousand illegal Turkish immigrants out of the country eighteen months after they arrived with wives and children in hopes of establishing themselves in this country.

Immigration lawyer Diane Belanger who represents 450 of the Turks has lashed out at the Canadian government saying that it knew about the massive arrival of Turks by airplane since July '86, when their migratory waves began.

John Holmes dies

LOS ANGELES, March 14, (Reuters): John Holmes, a star in hundreds of pornographic films who once claimed to have had sex with 14,000 women, has died at age 43, his manager said.

Bill Amerson said last night that Holmes died on Saturday of colon cancer at the Veterans Administration hospital in suburban Sepulveda.

Holmes had not appeared in pornographic films since a malignant tumour was removed from his colon in October, 1986.

Execution

BEIJING, March 14, (AP): A man who embezzled 1.3 million yuan (\$350,000) from a fertilizer factory in eastern China was executed, an official newspaper said today.

The People's Daily said Jiang Zhongguo, chief of the finance section of the Wujia chemical fertilizer factory in Changzhou City, was executed yesterday after a court had rejected his appeal.



Discover
gold

Jassar, Mahathir discuss ways to strengthen ties

KUALA LUMPUR, March 14. (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Khalid Al Jassar today met with the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad to discuss matters of concern for both countries.

The meeting at parliament building here was also attended by the Malaysian Minister in Charge of Religious Affairs Dr Yusof Noor, the Kuwaiti Islamic Affairs Director Nader Al Nuuri, Al Jassar's secretary, Faisal Husain Al Ghattas and both the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa and the Malaysian envoy to Kuwait Zina Abidin Elias.

Earlier, the Kuwaiti delegation held separate meeting with Dr Yusof on matters relating to religious affairs.

"I am very pleased with the

meetings," the Kuwaiti minister told Kuna in an exclusive interview here later.

He said at the meeting with Mahathir, he took the opportunity to convey the regards of HH the Amir of Kuwait and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to the Malaysian Premier, the government and people of Malaysia.

Model

Jassar said in response to this, Mahathir asked him to convey his regards and appreciation to the Amir and the Crown Prince.

"Dr Mahathir also expressed his earnest hope that the existing brotherly relations and cooperation between Kuwait and Malaysia will further strengthen in the coming years," he said.

Al Jassar added the Prime Minister also briefed him on the efforts being made by the

Malaysian government to strengthen economic ties with Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti minister said he was impressed with the activities of the Malaysian pilgrims' management and food board (Tabung Haji), especially in handling pilgrim affairs for the haj.

"I was briefed on the activities for Tabung Haji last Saturday and have found that it is unique, Tabung Haji should serve as a model for other countries to emulate, especially where Muslims are unable to go to Makkah for the haj by themselves," he added.

The Kuwaiti minister and members of his delegation arrived here last Thursday at the invitation of the Sultan of Selangor to witness the official opening of the new \$65 million Selangor state mosque at Shah Alam, 25 km from here last Friday.

Lecture on effect of maids on security



A LECTURE on the effect of maids on public security was given to mothers of children attending the Bayader kindergarten by Captain Yacoub Al Fadala of the Interior Ministry's public relations department. He

spoke of the danger of leaving maids and other servants alone in the house when employers went on summer vacation, adding that this resulted in thefts and other crimes.

He explained the new foreign-

ers residence law which limited the number of expatriate maids. He said the gravest crimes committed by domestics was murder and dealing in drugs and liquor. Picture shows Captain Al Fadala addressing the gathering.

Arab committee for London for talks with UK officials

BAGHDAD, March 14. (Kuna): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, accompanied by the Secretary General of the Arab League Chadli Klibi today left here for London to join the seven-man Arab committee on the popular Palestinian uprising in Arab lands occupied by Israel.

Before his departure, Tariq Aziz in a press statement said that the Arab committee will discuss with British officials necessary steps to be taken to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem particularly in view of the Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories.

After concluding its deliberations, the Arab committee members will leave London for Paris to convene similar meetings in the French capital.

Recognise

Tariq Aziz further said that committee members will hold talks in London and France with British and French officials on the latest developments in occupied Arab lands, stressing the necessity to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the international community and the Arab League.

The Iraqi minister said that the joint Arab committee has been entrusted with the task of monitoring the Palestinian uprising and considering the need for moral and material support in the Palestinians struggling

against the Israeli occupation. The Arab committee on Palestinian uprising, he said, decided at its last meeting to develop contacts with all the Arab states to increase their material support to the Palestinian cause.

Meanwhile Jordan's Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri flew to London today to join Arab ministers seeking support for the Palestinians from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The official news agency Petra said Masri and other members of a group appointed by the Arab League in January would meet British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe tomorrow.

They aimed to win support for a Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and for efforts to reach a lasting Middle East settlement, Petra said.

Lobby

It said the Arab League group planned to lobby all the Security Council's permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China.

Apart from Masri, the delegation would include Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Petra added.

The group also includes the Foreign Ministers of Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq and Saudi



Japanese embassy Commercial Attache S Sakurai hosted a reception on Sunday at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel to introduce his successor Hori. Sakurai will return to Tokyo shortly. Picture shows from left to right Sakurai, Mrs Sakurai, the Japanese Ambassador Tadakiyo Nomura, Hori, Mrs Hori and Nakamura of Japanese embassy.

Sheikh Jaber Mubarak in talks with Sheikh Issa

MANAMA, March 14. (Kuna): The Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa today received in his office the visiting Information Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad and exchanged views on relations between the two Gulf states particularly in the field of information.

They also reviewed efforts made to bring about the peoples of the two states further closer.

According to the Gulf News Agency the Amir of Bahrain stressed the importance of increasing cooperation in the field of information with a view to further promote understanding between the two states in socio-political fields and spread it equally at the Gulf Conference.

Sheikh Sabah meetings

ACTING Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received Minister of Finance Jassem Al Khirafi, Social Affairs and Labour, Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammed Abdel Mahsen Al Rifai.

Sheikh Sabah also received chairman of the Arab World Institute in Paris Paul Carton and they reviewed the institute's activities and its role in presenting Arab civilisation and its impact on the modern world.

He also received Khaled Yousef Al Marzouq and Dr Khaled Al Mathkur, professor at Shari'a College of Kuwait University.

Later on, Sheikh Sabah met with chairman and members of the Kuwaiti Farmers Union.

KD 1m subsidy

KUWAIT spent KD 1.1 million in January on subsidies for basic commodities, according to a responsible source at the supply and consumer protection department of the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

He said that KD 459,257 was spent on items distributed on ration cards, such as rice, sugar, milk powder and garbage bags.

He added that KD 466,846 was spent on children's food, flour sold to bakeries and fresh milk.

The balance was spent on other items and for transport and storage.

Shot dead

SHIHAB H. shah to death another Khalaf A, on Sunday night at Failaka Island.

The two men were quarrelling and Shihab fired six bullets from his pistol into Khalaf, who died instantly.

Reduction of staff

ABDUL Rahman Al Khudari, the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry, said the recent ministry decision to reduce the number of secretaries and storekeepers was based on organisational needs.

According to a Kuwaiti daily, the decision was made in an effort to re-define some job responsibilities such as eliminating typists and clerks and having secretaries only.

Al Khudari said the changes were also being made to control personnel growth and to transfer some personnel in new schools.

Training course

THE closing ceremony at the end of a training course on fingerprints was attended by the assistant undersecretary for public security affairs at the Interior Ministry, Brigadier Abdul Aziz Jumaa.

The director general of the department, Brigadier Mansour Al Ibrahim, said that 38 female employees attended the course and 30 passed. They were shown how to take and identify fingerprints.

Brigadier Jumaa and Brigadier Al Ibrahim distributed the certificates.

Big drug haul

CID men at Ahmad Governorate have arrested an unemployed Saudi in a charge of trading in narcotics.

They seized 28 big bags and two big sacks full of narcotic pills.

The man admitted the charge and said the narcotics were smuggled into the country in a truck driven by a Turk.

CID sources said the sacks contained about three million pills.

Zakat aid for Palestinians

ZAKAT (abns) House yesterday decided to extend KD50,000 in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The acting director of Zakat House Abdul Kader Al Ajel told Kuna that as a result of the Zionist atrocities against the revolting Palestinians, a number of civilians fell victims and are in need of assistance.

He urged all Arabs to support the Palestinian people in their current crisis and raise their morale against Israeli suppression in addition to supplying them with material aid.

Speaker of PNC renews call for jihad against Jewish occupation

SPEAKER of the Palestine National Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh has renewed calls for jihad against the Jewish occupation of Palestine and hoped that the Arab countries neighbouring Israel would open their borders to the mujahideens.

Sayeh, in an interview with a Kuwaiti magazine added that jihad is not of the holy duties of Muslims that should never be forsaken.

He called for ignoring statements of US President Reagan and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres since "we have

our own belief, charter, doctrines, national resolutions and stable rights that we can never give up."

The US and Israel are considering to drive a wedge in the Palestinian ranks and hence declare that there is no Palestinian people and their cause should be discussed with other parties.

Hailed

The PNC speaker called for backing the Palestinian people's uprising by all means and full American-Israeli efforts to abort it.

The idea of the Ship of Return came to boost the uprising and

not against it, Sayeh emphasised, adding that it was expected to affirm the Palestinian deportees' right to return to their homeland.

Sayeh hailed the Islamic movement in the occupied Arab territories and hoped that differences would not persist between it and the nationalist movement because this is what the Americans and Jews wish.

The PNC speaker hailed the Palestinian people on because they are Palestinians but rather for enrooting the Zionist military war machine with bare chests and stones and because they do not accept humiliation or capitulation.

Uprising helps Islamic nations to regain their honour

PALESTINIAN "children of the stones" are out with faith and persistence throwing stones and challenging every Israeli repression. They are doing this to show the world the situation under the Israeli occupation and to emphasise that what has been taken by force must be regained by force, a local newspaper said yesterday.

The newspaper interviewed a number of Kuwait University students for their views on the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied land.

Liberate

The head of administrative affairs at the Kuwait Students Union, Mohammed Al Dallal, said the Palestinian uprising helped Islamic nations to regain their faith and honour. It was a lesson of jihad, persistence and sacrifice. Muslims in Palestine proved their strong faith in Islam and sought jihad and martyrdom until the occupied lands were returned.

The deputy head of executive affairs at the union, Hmoud Fahd Al Qashan, said Muslim

nations must support this uprising because it was the uprising of an unjustly treated nation. He added that the uprising brought back the spirit of jihad in people who had been misled by false promises.

The president of the economics and political science association, Basel Al Munayis, said the struggle against Israel will never end. The Palestinian uprising was the only legitimate way to liberate the occupied lands. He said that peaceful initiative was the way of United States Zionist politics. He thought that the Palestinian uprising was the answer to all misleading promises.

Reaction

A student of the arts college, Khalid Issa Husaio, said the Palestinian uprising was a strong reaction in the Israeli occupation and a result of the brutal practices against the Palestinians. He said Arab and Islamic efforts were necessary for a more fruitful uprising. A firmer and stronger Islamic Arab stand should be

taken to face racial Zionism. He said that peace initiatives might be considered as a solution in the Palestinian cause, but on condition that they were implemented completely, and Palestinians regained their full legitimate rights.

Another student, Asmaa Al Shibani, said that Arab-Israeli disputes were old, going back to the time before and after Islam. She said that history was repeating itself. She said that Israel would never give up its right to occupy all Arab land, even though it called for peace. She added that all recent peace initiatives were only a way to mollify the rage of Palestinians. She said that the uprising was equal to a nuclear bomb because it destroyed the Israeli dream.

Another student, Hussain Dawoud Al Anzi, described the uprising a heroic act and an honour to all Arabs. He said the uprising expressed the sufferings of the Palestinian people. He called on Arab nations to unite to achieve a peaceful solution that would ensure Palestinian rights.

ROYAL COURT

Cable of thanks

HH the Amir received a cable of appreciation from chairman and members of the science club board of directors on his contribution to complete the club's buildings which reflects the Amir's care for youths.

The Amir sent a reply cable hailing their efforts in promoting science.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Emphasis on self-determination

AKUWAITI newspaper has emphasised that any peace initiative on the Middle East will be destined to failure unless the Palestinian people's right for self-determination is taken into consideration.

Al Rai Al Aam newspaper, published yesterday editorially said all previous initiatives, regarding peace in the region, failed because they fell short of recognising the Palestinian role.

Noting that the Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir imagines, as a terrorist, he can quell the raging upheaval with the stick, the bomb and by breaking bones, the paper said that Shamir forgets that the uprising was erupted by the Palestinians themselves.

The US continues to be biased to Israel, the newspaper said, adding that the Arab side was taken for granted and neglected.

Shamir wants to confiscate the rights of the Palestinian people, as Israel usurped Arab lands.

Nouri receives scouts delegations

ANWAR Abdullah Al Nuuri, Kuwait's Education Minister and Acting Minister of Higher Education, received in his office the heads of delegations participating in the 6th Arab Scouts Session currently being held in Kuwait.

The guests were accompanied by the Acting Director of the Physical Training Department Fahd Abdul Rahman and other ministry officials.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Second attack on Arabs in Lagos

Saudis wounded in shooting

LAGOS, March 14, (Reuters): Three Saudi citizens were shot and wounded at the weekend by an unidentified gunman in the second attack on Arabs in the Nigerian capital in two months, a senior Nigerian official said today.

The men were shot at close range by a bearded, Arab-looking man using a pistol fitted with a silencer, the official said.

Robbery
A doctor treating the men at a private Lagos hospital said they were in satisfactory condition and would be flown to Saudi Arabia later today.

On January 23, the Libyan Charge d'Affaires, Abubakar Kanna, was shot dead in a dan-

gerous area of Lagos during what police said was an armed robbery. No culprits have been found.

According to local newspaper reports, Kanna was returning by road from Benin, Nigeria's neighbour, where pro-Libyan Chadian rebels have offices.

Mistaken
The Nigerian official, who declined to be identified, said the state security service had been called to investigate the latest shooting, an indication that the authorities suspected a political motive.

He said the three men were Arabic teachers who were in a Saudi diplomatic vehicle on Saturday night. They were hit

just after midnight in the car park of their luxury hotel.

"They could have been mistaken for diplomats because they were out in a Saudi embassy car," the official said.

A security officer at the hotel said the alarm was not immediately raised because the gunman used a silencer.

A Saudi diplomatic note on the attack sent to the Nigerian External Affairs Ministry said a light-skinned man shot the trio in the early hours of Sunday, officials said.

The country's embassy in Lagos was guarded on Monday by three armed Nigerian policemen, who turned away all visitors.

Polygamy is a problem

ISLAM allows men to have more than one wife under the specific conditions given in the Holy Quran and the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

But some men have taken advantage of this to have more than one wife for no valid reasons but merely as an escape from family problems, a local newspaper said.

It said that the practice had become widespread to the point where marrying a second time had become something ordinary, and pointed out that this was hard on the children.

Reasons
The newspaper interviewed a number of men and women for their views on polygamy.

A high school student, Laila Nasser, said that polygamy was bad though common in society,

including Kuwaiti society, nowadays. She said that polygamy was allowed in Islam, but the wives should be treated equally and this was generally not done.

She said that polygamy took place for several reasons, such as ignorance of marriage responsibilities, early marriage, an escape from family problems, or merely for a change.

Realise
A Municipality employee, Mohammed Nazir, rejected the idea of polygamy and refused to consider it an ordinary thing to do.

He said some men liked to show off and felt proud to have more than one wife, while others just imitated their fathers or friends.

He said that high living stan-

dards might force men to take another wife even though they were satisfied with their first one, explaining that such men might be looking for a rich wife to solve their financial problems.

A science college student, Kholoud Nasser, said that men must realise that marriage was a big responsibility.

She said it could not be denied that polygamy was a problem, but there were several reasons, including the need for sexual satisfaction.

An employee of Al Sadri Hospital, Fadila Al Maqawi, said that polygamy was a social problem caused by the sudden increase in wealth.

She said she did not support polygamy except in cases when a wife was sterile or there were family disputes.

Call for review of ban on private tuition institutes

PARENTS and students are calling for a review of the ban on tuition by private institutes, a local newspaper said yesterday.

The tutorials organised by the Kuwait Teachers Society were meant to be an alternative to the classes held by the private institutes, but students and parents interviewed by the newspaper claimed that the society's tutorials were not an acceptable alternative because the classes were large and a waste of the time of students.

One student, Abdul Latif Al Rashed, said he had been attending the private institutes. After the classes were banned, he joined those held by the Teachers Society, but found them inefficient.

He pointed out that a class at the private institutes did not exceed ten students and this ensured good interaction between teacher and students, whereas classes at the society had 35 students each.

He said he had stopped studying with the society because he realised he would not benefit and would be wasting his time.

Another student, Sulaiman Al Astal, said that fees at the private institutes were taken on a family's budget.

Burden

He said that tutorials at the society were not at the expected level.

He said that special coaches who came to homes charged KD150 a month, and this large sum was a very heavy burden on a family's budget.

A girl student called on the press to play its role in putting an end to the greed of teachers who gave tuition at homes.

She did not give her name for fear teachers would not come to her home.

She said her father was paying

about KD150 monthly for tuition and this was a heavy burden.

She said that tutorials at private institutes supplemented school lessons and were also cheap.

Rami Taber said the tutorials experiment at the Teachers Society was not satisfactory for the majority of students and this resulted in some students resorting to private tuition in their homes.

He said that some teachers asked for KD300 for each subject.

Review

He called for lifting of the ban on tutorials by private institutes.

A parent, Hassan Al Najjar, said the cancelling of tutorials by private institutes had imposed a financial and moral burden on parents.

He said the institutions only took a token fee for each subject and a school spirit prevailed at the classes. On the other hand, the atmosphere during tuition at homes was different, and teachers charged KD10 per hour.

He said he was also obliged to stay at home as long as the teacher was there and this was a moral burden.

He called for reviewing the decision banning tutorials at private institutes, adding that the institutes had proved their efficiency over a long period.

Another parent, Yahya Fayed, said cancellation of tutorials at the private institutes had a negative effect on students.

Fathi Amin said he had been affected by the cancellation of tutorials at the private institutes.

He said he was reluctant to have coaches come to his home although the flat was small.

He said he paid about KD150 monthly for tuition, although his salary was KD350 only.

He urged officials at the Education Ministry to review their decision.

Othman Salem said that fees at private institutes were taken ones, but he was now obliged to pay KD8 for an hour's private tuition per child to enable his four children to obtain high averages at the secondary school certificate examinations so that they could get admission to the university.

Nasser Othman said he was paying KD250 a month for tuition for his children.

Muneeb Abdullah said the cancellation of tutorials at private institutes had placed parents in a critical position, adding that most middle income parents were paying half their salary for private tuition.

He pointed out that most outstanding students had been taking tuition at private institutes. He said the experiment of the Teachers Society was not encouraging.

He stressed that parents should have the right to decide where they would send their children for tuition, whether at private institutes, the Teachers Society or any other place.

Unknown

The director of the Al Andalus Institute, Elhami Zahran, said the real reasons for cancelling tutorials at private institutes were not known until now.

He said the private institutes had been providing tuition for nominal fees that did not exceed KD30 per year, while some teachers who were coaching at homes were charging about KD400 for each subject.

He said that most outstanding students had studied at private institutes.

He pointed out that the income of most parents did not allow them to pay for private tuition at the home.

He said that most private institutes had never committed any violation and had never been warned by any official authority.



● Kuwait's Holiday Inn will launch its fifth inter-school knockout competition on March 16 at 5 pm. The competition will run for three weeks, and six schools will participate in hilarious games with separate themes such as Prince and Princesses, Pirates and Cavemen. The second match will be on March 22 and the finals on April 13. Valuable prizes will be awarded to the winners.



● Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmed (right), yesterday met the chairman of the Paris-based Arab World Institute, Paul Cartonne.

Kuwait will attend Arab summit

KUWAIT has said it would attend a proposed Arab summit to discuss support for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, an official source reported yesterday.

The source said Kuwait told Arab League Secretary General Chadi Khuli of its willingness to attend the summit, proposed by Algeria, at a date or date agreed by Arab leaders.

A date and venue will be fixed if more than half the Arab League's 21 members accept. A League delegation arrived in Bahrain yesterday on the third leg of a tour to assess chances of a meeting.

Arab League sources said that Libya has officially agreed to attend an extraordinary summit.

Sources indicated that Tripoli has sent an official consent to the Arab League general secretariat.

KD 16,000 raised for orphanage

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs has helped raise KD 16,000 for a Muslim Orphanage in Bangalore, India.

A member of the Muslim Orphanage's Advisory Council, Khawaja Abdullah Burhan, who was recently in Kuwait, said the funds would be used to complete the orphanage building, now under construction.

The new building would enable them to increase the number of children admitted to the orphanage. At present about 300 boys and girls live at the orphanage and are provided schooling and other facilities. The marriage of girls is also arranged by the orphanage.

The orphanage needs Rs. 120,000 more to complete the building. Shortage of funds has set back plans to enhance training and other facilities.

Houti meets UK, Tunisian envoys

MINISTER of Public Works Abdel Rahman Al Houti, yesterday received United Kingdom Ambassador to Kuwait where they discussed bilateral cooperation and means of boosting them.

He also received Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait where they exchanged cordial talks.

Iran to attend Islamic foreign ministers meeting

AMMAN, March 14, (Xinhua): Iran is to participate in the forthcoming 17th Foreign Ministerial meetings of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) scheduled to open here on March 21, sources at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry announced here today.

Iran, a member of the OIC, refused to take part in the OIC summit meeting held in Kuwait last year.

On the agenda of the five-day meetings are 78 items of interest to the Islamic world, on top of which are the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in Afghanistan and the Muslim fighters of the Moro National Liberation Front who are fighting for self-rule in the Philippines, according to diplomatic sources here.

Border dispute
The conference will also discuss the border dispute between Libya and Chad, the Israeli aggression in south Lebanon, the situation in the Horn of Africa and the deteriorating economic conditions in the African continent.

King Hussein of Jordan will address the opening session of the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Islamic states.

To facilitate media coverage of the meetings, translation of the speeches at the meetings in three languages, Arabic, English and French, will be available. News reports about the conference will be transmitted to all parts of the world through the Arab, Indian and Pacific telecommunication satellites.

Murder attempt
A NORTH Yemeni told officials at Salwa police centre that an Egyptian tried to kill him, his wife and children with his car.

He was appointed Minister of Public Health, and in 1964 he resigned government activity and turned to private business.

He was a member of the Municipal Council then became director of Kuwait Municipality. He also represented Kifan area in parliament and he was elected as chairman of the constituent assembly and head of the constitutional committee entrusted with drafting Kuwait constitution which he submitted to late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

He was appointed Minister of Public Health, and in 1964 he resigned government activity and turned to private business.



● The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry held a religious function yesterday at the Grand Mosque to celebrate the Israa and Miraa.

Road Safety Society discusses role of research

KUWAIT'S Road Safety Society discussed at its weekly meeting the importance of research and studies in solving traffic problems.

Dr Ishak Al Qotob from the Faculty of Arts at Kuwait University said the research was of particular importance in Arab countries because they are passing through a transitional period in their rapid development.

He said such a period is critical to the life of these communities because of the appearance of new problems. He added that research and studies related to this growth were aimed at understanding the anthropological, psychological, educational, economic and political aspects of society.

Al Qotob recommended that ministries and institutions conduct necessary research in order to more effectively handle traffic

problems, which pose a real social and economic burden for the state. He added that traffic accidents cost the state about KD 116 million per year.

Committees formed with representatives from research authorities such as Kuwait University, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, he said, would be useful in coordinating research.

Research can be divided into the three categories, he said. Classical research, which looks at behaviour in relation to the family and economic and social changes; applied research, which examines problems and their various dimensions in order to draw up appropriate solutions; and appraisal research, which is important in shaping human behaviour.

Austrian official reiterates support for Palestinians

ABU DHABI, March 14, (Kuna): Austrian Foreign Undersecretary Thomas Kistler left here late last night for home following a tour of the Gulf region.

Kistler, during his one day visit to United Arab Emirates, held talks with a number of UAE officials on main issues of mutual interests topped by the Iraqi-Iranian war and Palestinian people's uprising.

The Austrian official reiterated his country's support for Palestinian people's rights.

King Hussein to visit Saudi Arabia

AMMAN, March 14, (Kuna): Jordanian monarch King Hussein is to pay a brief working visit to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday where he will review with King Fahd Bin Abdel Azz on latest events in the Arab world and means of coordinating Arab stances toward these developments.

Reliable sources told Kuna that this visit comes as part of his continuous consultations with leaders of the region.

The sources said that King Hussein is expected to visit Yemen Arab Republic to confer with President Ali Abdullah Saleh over similar questions.

The king recently toured Kuwait, Iraq, Syria and Egypt.

and the convocation of an international peace conference attended by all concerned parties as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Kistler expressed his country's readiness to host the international peace conference which fall in line with Austria's keenness to establish peace in Middle East and restore the Palestinian legitimate rights.

The Austrian official also delivered to UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rasheed Abdullah a message from Austrian Foreign Affairs Minister Alois Mock stipulating his country's intention to boost bilateral cooperation.

Moroccan minister

DOHA, March 14, (Kuna): The official talks between the visiting Moroccan Labour Minister Hassan Al Abadi and Qatari officials starts here today.

Abadi arrived here last night on a three-day official visit to Qatar within a tour to a number of regional states.

The talks will deal with means of boosting bilateral relations particularly in the field of work and labour.

In an arrival statement the Moroccan minister said that his visit to Qatar will strengthen the current bilateral relations.

Gulf states get tough with drug smugglers

BAHRAIN, March 14, (Reuters): Tough prison sentences have curbed drug abuse among Gulf Arabs, and officials say drug smuggling into Saudi Arabia dropped by 40 per cent after some smugglers were beheaded.

Arab countries bordering the Gulf became alarmed when they realised only a few years ago they had become a market for drugs, rather than just a link between Asian producers and European and North American consumers. The governments responded.

Saudi Arabia, which follows Sharia (Islamic law), last March introduced public beheading by sword for smugglers, after drug seizures tripled in a year.

Saudi officials say seven men, foreigners and Saudis, died by the sword over the past year and traffickers are now thinking twice before trying to bring in drugs.

Death penalty
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain also introduced the death penalty for traffickers, by firing squad.

Although nobody in these two countries has been executed so far, smugglers of hard drugs are drawing harsher sentences than before.

"We changed our laws in July 1986 and added life sentences and executions in drug cases. The influx of drugs has been on the decline ever since," a UAE anti-narcotics official told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Users, who previously got off lightly, are now jailed for three

years, while even small time dealers are getting 15 years to life.

Like other Arab countries, Gulf states were familiar with hashish and opium, but they knew very little about the refined hard drugs which invaded their markets.

"It reached epidemic scale. We had many addicts and smuggling cases rose. We were swarming with patients, mainly youths," said Dr Mohamed Al Haddad, head of Bahrain's psychiatric hospital which has the island's only addiction ward.

He said that 45 addicts a week were being admitted in 1986. Now the figure is five.

"We used 240,000 tablets of methadone (a synthetic heroin substitute) to treat addicts in 1986 and only 3,000 tablets in 1987," Haddad added.

The addiction threat sounded warning bells in all six countries making up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Doctors and clergymen went on television to warn viewers about drug abuse, in many cases joined by addicts, often in tears, describing how their lives had been destroyed.

Schools and colleges held seminars and classes on drugs while police and customs officials went abroad for training on the latest anti-narcotics techniques.

Several countries built addiction hospitals where patients were treated, usually free of charge and always under conditions of complete secrecy.

The GCC is now studying

proposals to standardise narcotics laws in all member states to combat the menace, which hit them much later than the rest of the world.

Saudi Arabia, with 12 million people the most populous of the GCC states, is the biggest potential market for drugs.

"No doubt the death penalty has achieved its goal and that is evident in the drop in drug-related cases," Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz said in a recent interview.

Dropped
A Chadian was beheaded in Jeddah last Friday noon prayers after month. An Interior Ministry statement said he had confessed to smuggling drugs and that more than 25 million narcotic pills were found in his home.

The latest figures for drug smuggling in Saudi Arabia have not been released yet, but a senior Saudi Arabian anti-narcotics officer said that drug trafficking had dropped by 40 per cent over the past 12 months.

Prince Nayef partly blamed the availability of drugs in Saudi Arabia on the kingdom's three million foreign workers, many from drug-growing countries in Asia.

"Every family must identify the extent of its need for a driver or house help and compare between that need and the consequences of a deterioration in (traditional Saudi) family behaviour," the prince said.

Saudi officials say beheadings had to be introduced after police

seizures of drugs rose to 24.8 tonnes in 1986 from just eight tonnes the previous year.

The amounts detected in the UAE rose from 131 kg in 1981 to three tonnes five years later.

In Kuwait, smugglers switched from traditional drugs — opium and bulky hashish — to more profitable and easy-to-carry hard drugs.

Kuwaiti police found 1.5 kg of heroin in 1985 and 62 kg of hashish, but the following year hashish hauls dropped to 29 kg while heroin rose to 5.4 kg.

Officials say the amounts seized represent less than 20 per cent of what gets through and in these states is sold at twice New York or London street prices.

Many Gulf officials blame visits by youths to Asia and Europe for the infiltration of hard drugs into their religiously-oriented societies.

Unlike elsewhere in the world, sudden wealth and lack of knowledge helped the spread of hard drugs in the Gulf, not social pressures or poverty.

"The oil (boom) created a new class of rich young people. They discovered it is a small world and started travelling to the Philippines, Thailand, and India in search of entertainment and pleasure," Haddad added.

He explained that most of the Gulf's young population knew very little about hard drugs and some men believed that drugs would enhance their sexual ability.

"That is how many got hooked," Haddad said.

Four sentenced to jail terms for stealing

FOUR men were sentenced to jail terms ranging from three to seven years by Kuwait's Criminal Court for the theft of KD52,130 from the bank where one of the men worked as deputy manager for the bank's branch office.

The four appealed the sentence, but it was upheld by the Court of Appeal against two of the accused, who are brothers. One was sentenced to seven years imprisonment and the other five.

The other two were sentenced to 18 months because of their secondary role in the theft. They had originally been sentenced to three years imprisonment.

UAE defence team visit Oman

MUSCAT, March 14, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum arrived here heading a delegation on a three-day official visit to Oman.

During the visit, which comes at the invitation of Omani Minister of State for Defence Mutasim Bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Sheikh Mohammed will discuss with Busaidi bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The UAE official was received by Busaidi and a number of high ranking officials at the Defence Ministry and UAE Charge d'Affaires in Oman.

Jewellery-making as a hobby

A pastime turns into artistic career

By Keith Wells

YOU often hear people complaining that there's nothing to do in Kuwait, well, this is a story about a young lady who has turned her pastime into a budding artistic career and had lots of fun in the process.

Yasmin Esa Parwaz is a secretary/translator at the Bhutanese Embassy, but she has taken up jewellery making in her spare time and, as you can see from the photographs, Yasmin has a real talent for making eye-catching pieces of jewellery.

'I've only been working with silver for about seven months,' says Yasmin. 'but I've been making costume jewellery for years, using beads and the metal from the bottom of light bulbs which is very easy to work with.'

So how did she get started as a silver-smith? 'I took some night-school classes at the Kuwait Cultural Centre in Salwa, which is run by Salome Al Sabah. In three months I learnt the basic techniques, working with a blowtorch, hammering and so on. It was easy for me because of my previous experience and I had a very good teacher, Erica Leitner, an Austrian lady who left last year but will be returning to the Centre soon.'

Lucky
Is it an expensive hobby to have?

'Not really, you can set yourself up for about fifty dinars and I have been lucky in that lots of my friends have asked me to make things for them. Silver costs roughly 220 to 240 fils a gram and I usually charge the price of the silver plus between one and two and a half dinars per gram, depending on how difficult the workmanship is.' Yasmin held up a delicately knitted silver chain with a subtle locking device from which a pale moonstone hung. 'This type of work takes a long time,' she explained. 'Sometimes my friends give me their own designs to make up for them, or else I design something myself. I don't really want to turn it into a business, but it's nice that my hobby pays for itself.'



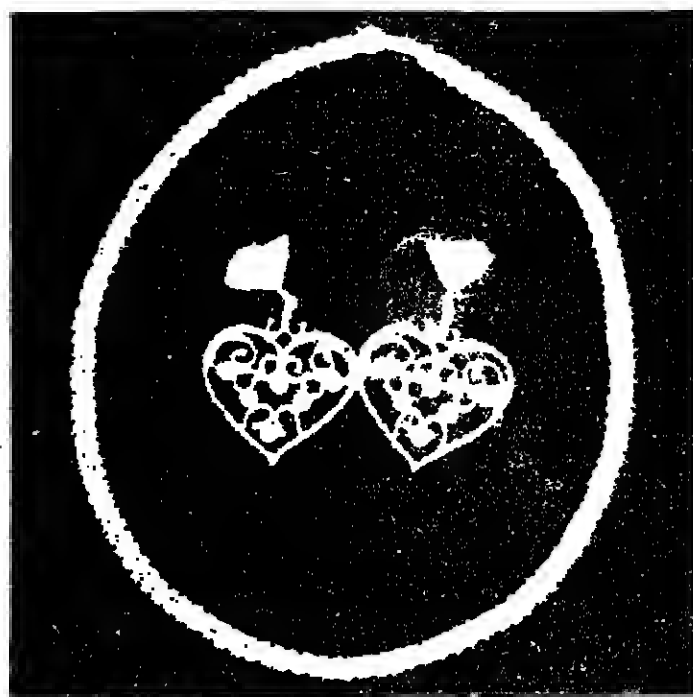
Yasmin wearing some of her own jewellery.

'The first time I sold anything in public was at the American Women's League Bazaar in December. I was very nervous, but I managed to sell all of my costume jewellery and quite a lot of the silver too. It was great. There is going to be an Arts and Crafts Charity Bazaar at the Regency Palace Hotel on April 7 and 8 and I'm working very hard to get things ready for that.' The Charity Bazaar is being organised by Sulad Al Afraj of Al-Amwaj

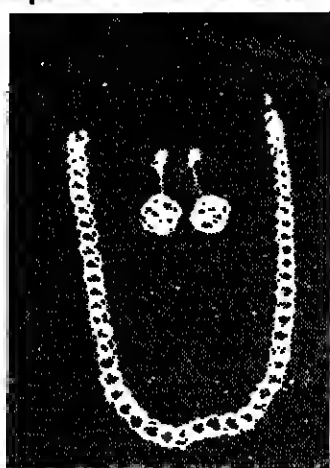
Co., and the proceeds will be divided between the Kuwait Handicapped Society, the Palestinian Uprising Fund and the Muslims in Africa Charity.

Original

Yasmin's jewellery is very original in design and I particularly like a pair of ball knot silver earrings which were very striking. 'I like dressmaking as well,' says Yasmin. 'What I really enjoy is designing and making my own clothes, then designing and making the



A pair of silver and silver earrings and a knitted silver choker.



This knitted silver necklace is matched by the intricately knitted earrings.

jewellery to go with the dress. It's a lovely feeling. And as you can see for yourself, the results are lovely too.

Yasmin uses beads and artificial stones in her designs. 'Zirconos only cost about one and a half dinars and they look exactly the same as diamonds which could cost as much as a thousand dollars for the same size stone. My uncle has a small star ruby mine near Bangalore and I have some stones from there that I hope to be able to use for some of the things I shall

be selling at the Charity Bazaar next month.'

Yasmin has signed up for jewellery classes at Al Muh-tarrif, the new handicrafts centre run by Dar Al Ahtar in Beit Al Badr in the National Museum. These classes will be run by professional art-jeweller Bill Bartholomew and Yasmin feels sure that she will learn a lot from him. 'I suppose you need a lot of patience,' she says, 'but it's a very satisfying hobby because you keep getting new ideas to try out.'

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.25 Sar'at Kawakah: cartoon serial
- 10.15 English Feature Film for young viewers
- 11.45 Hadith Deeni: "Is'ra' Wal Meraj". Prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Omar Hashim.
- 12.10 Al Maraya: featuring Salah Zulfikar, Hind Kamel, Rasbid Asaf
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.20 World News via Satellite
- 2.00 Hub Wa Taqoi-shebat: Arabic play. Starring: Yahya Fakhradi, Wabed Saif, Muntasar Bi'allah, Nahil Nuruddin. Directed by Hussein Hamid.
- 3.35 Ihtal Al Mu'laeh: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 World News via Satellite
- 4.15 Ghadab Al Sahara: new daily serial, featuring Sahar Rami, Abdul Rahman Al Rish, Tah-nath Hamdi.
- 5.25 Mama Anisa and children
- 6.25 Hadith Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Mutwali
- 7.05 News Summary
- 7.40 Hadith Al Usboob: religious talk by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
- 8.00 Opera: directed by Abdullah Taqi
- 9.00 News to Arabic
- 9.50 Pages from the History of Kuwait: prepared and presented



Soleil Moon Fry plays Punky Brewster, 6.40 pm tonight on KTV 2.

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Report on the 9th Gulf Cup Soccer Championships.
- 6.40 Punky Brewster: "Accidents Happen." The children in Punky's class are told to select a career. Punky's choice of becoming a space-woman catches on...
- 7.00 Beyond 2000: examines advances in science and technology. This episode examines research on solar energy, computerised bank-

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Report on the 9th Gulf Cup Soccer Championships.
- 6.40 Punky Brewster: "Accidents Happen." The children in Punky's class are told to select a career. Punky's choice of becoming a space-woman catches on...
- 7.00 Beyond 2000: examines advances in science and technology. This episode examines research on solar energy, computerised bank-

Tracey Ullman presents her comedy show at 10 pm tonight, KTV-2.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

MORNING

- 08.00 Opening
- 08.02 Songs and Music
- 08.05 Thoughts in Islam
- 08.20 Songs and Music
- 08.30 NEWS
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Songs and Music
- 09.30 They Sold A Million
- 10.00 Our Press Today
- 10.05 Songs and Music
- 11.00 Closedown
- 13.30 NEWS on FM Service

EVENING

- 21.00 Opening
- 21.02 In The Latin Mood
- 21.30 NEWS
- 21.45 Point of View
- 21.55 Songs and Music
- 22.00 Religious Programme
- 22.15 In The Groove
- 22.45 Daily Programme
- 23.00 Hit Special
- 23.30 Jazz in Action
- 24.00 Closedown

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsweek
- 30 Best on Record
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 30 Short Story
- 45 The Unclaimed Promise (ex 29th)
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Network UK
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 John Peel

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Phoenicia Pharmacy
Phoenicia Bldg., Fahad Al Salem St.
Al Talal Pharmacy
Opp. Education Ministry, Hilali St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Hina Pharmacy
Beirut St.

Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Al Fida Pharmacy
Ahmad Jarallah Bldg., Khansa St.

Fahaeel and Ahmadi
Al Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Sabah, F'heel

Khaitan
Al Wahda Pharmacy
Main St.

Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Society

- 0400 Newsdesk
- 30 Virtuoso
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Financial News
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 New Ideas
- 40 Turning Over New Leaves (ex 29th The Wondrous Cross cont'd)
- 45 The World Today
- 09 A Letter from Scotland
- 15 Citizens
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsdesk
- 30 Development '88
- 1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary
- 39 Stock Market Report
- 45 Report on Religion
- 2000 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Meridian
- 2100 News Summary followed by Byron Readings (ex 29th The Wondrous Cross cont'd)
- 10 Turning Over New Leaves (ex 29th The Wondrous Cross cont'd)
- 15 International Recital (ex 22nd and 29th Concert Hall)

FM Services

- 0800 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1330 News
- 1340 Easy Listening
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Italian Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Indian Classical Hour
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Listening

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Closed

Al Salmiya
Arabic play

Al Hamra
Tough Guys
Starring: Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster

Drive-In
Shahah Fi Al Jaheem (Arabic)
Starring: Mamdouh Abdul Alim, Mirvat Ameen

Al Firdous
Namak Halal (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Smita Patil

Fahaeel Open-air
Anhonee (Hindi)
Al Fahaeel
Carioca Tiger

Al Jahra
Johnny

Granada
Idanazyil Oru Kalochu (Malayalam)

Salaikhah
Hand Gun

Al Jeeb
Punar Milan (Bengali)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Maut Samira (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.38 am
Zuhr	11.57
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.57
Isha	7.13

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salmiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

THEATRE

Kuwait Little Theatre
KLT will perform Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith, at 8.15 pm nightly until Thursday. For reservations, ring 3983724.

CINEMA

British Council
Little Lord Fauntleroy is the title of this month's film for children. It is a heart-warming story of eight year old Ceddie, whose happy life with his widowed American mother is transformed when he becomes Little Lord Fauntleroy. It will be shown on March 16, 6 pm and March 17, 10.30 am.

This month's feature film for adults is entitled *The Emerald Forest*. The production by John Boorman is the mystical story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20.

Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 2515512.

MUSIC

Rock 'n' Romance
Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

Piano Concert

Well-known pianist Ramzi Yassa will give a recital on Tuesday, March 15, at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom A. Yassa's repertoire ranges from Bach to Berg and includes works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Ravel and Mozart.

SOCIAL

Filipino Get-together.
The next "Kumustahan" — get-together — will be held on Saturday, March 19, 5 to 8 pm, at the Church Hall. Free snacks will be served. Admission free. All Filipinos are welcome.

May Queen
The May Queen will be crowned at a special event which will be held on May 16 at the Sheraton Hotel. Clothes designed by Tapati Ray will also be shown. Two local bands — Stepping Stones and City Limits — will provide entertainment. The event is being organised by the Kuwait Goans Association.

Prize-giving ceremony
The Bangladesh School, Kuwait, will hold the prize distribution ceremony on Friday, March 18, 6.30 pm, at the Ibo Taimiya Secondary School, Hassawi. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

Contact
The next meeting of the ladies information group, Co-tact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details — phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Daniella
The '88 Revue will be performed at the Gazelle Club on March 17 at 7.30 pm. It is the major family event of the year. Don't leave children at home. For reservations contact Co-ordinate — 3947693; Annette — 3903480 before

SPORTS

Kuwait Rally
The 1988 Kuwait International Rally will be held on March 17 and 18. The rally starts on Thursday (March 17) at 1 pm from the SAS Hotel carport, and the first night's action will be in the Jahra/Doha areas. Main Control will be at Entertainment City, and the cars can be seen there between 4.30 pm and 6 pm. The cars return to SAS at 10 pm, and the rally resumes at 9 am the next morning. Stages will be in the Maqwa and Sulaihiya areas and the cars can be seen at Main Control from 12.30 pm. The rally finish is at the SAS Hotel at 5.15 pm.

Cricket Match
The BA Speedbird Trophy Cricket match between teams representing Great Britain and India will take place on March 15 at the KOC, Ahmadi, new ground. Play commences at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

Backgammon winners announced



The winners pictured after receiving the trophies and prizes. (Photo by Javed Basra)

MORE than 250 people attended the first leg of the Gulfwide Paco Rabanne Backgammon Championship 1988, held recently at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel.

Dice rolled and pawns moved at great speed as 128 participants competed for the Kuwait Championship title. The tournament was held over a

three-day period.

Lutfi Georges Atallah won the Kuwait tournament. Zarf Mitri Boutros was the runner-up. The winner is now eligible to take part in the Grand Finals, due to be held in Bahrain later this year.

Jean Louis Luthier of Paco Rabanne presented the trophies to winners. Atallah also

received an air ticket to Bahrain, courtesy Gulf Air, to compete with the winners of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain for the Gulf championship.

The tournament is being organised by Paco Rabanne in cooperation with Kuwait Hilton and Gulf Air.



Reception

THE Managing Director of the Al Zeraf Company, Mohammad Nazir, recently hosted a reception to welcome the new General Manager of Alghanim Barber Shipping Company, Peter Wakely, and bid farewell to the outgoing GM Bjorn Tonsberg. Picture shows Nazir (centre) flanked by Wakely (fifth left) and Tonsberg (fourth right).

Saad gets new job

Adnan Saad (right) has recently joined the Kuwait Meridien Hotel as its assistant sales manager in the Sales and Marketing Department. Saad is a graduate of the School of Hotels, Cairo, and has attended several seminars and training courses. He also took part in the opening of one of the major five-star hotels in Kuwait and the Kheiran Resort.



NOTHING is more unjust or capricious than public opinion — *William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830).*

- 14 BC — Roman dictator Julius Caesar is assassinated.
- 1562 — Huguenot conspiracy at Amboise fails to rescue King Francis II of France from Guise factions, and prince of Condé subsequently is imprisoned by the Duke of Guise.
- 1603 — Samuel de Champlain, French navigator and explorer, sails for the New World.
- 1776 — US Congress resolves that authority of British crown should be suppressed.
- 1874 — France assumes protectorate over central Indochina region of Annam, which breaks off vassalage to China.
- 1894 — France and Germany agree on boundaries between French Congo and Camerouns.
- 1918 — British conquest of northern Nigeria is complete.
- 1918 — US force of 12,000 soldiers under General J. Pershing is ordered to Mexico to capture revolutionary leader Pancho Villa.
- 1921 — Ruanda, East Africa, is ceded to Britain by Belgium.
- 1943 — Japanese planes attack Darwin, Australia, in World War II.
- 1962 — US military training personnel in South Vietnam exchange fire with communist guerrilla forces.
- 1963 — Fighting breaks out between Soviet and Chinese forces along border of those two nations.
- 1973 — US and Soviet envoys begin fourth round of Salt talks in Vienna, Austria, on limiting arms.
- 1987 — Bomb explodes on railway bridge in southern India, sending passenger train crashing into river bed, killing at least 22 people.

هكذا من اجل

Oscar fever in tinsel town

Hollywood is gearing up for the biggest event of the year... the Oscar awards. And this time round, the field is wide open. Will Michael Douglas and Cher be crowned King and Queen of tinsel town? Or are there some surprises in store?

By Alan Graham

THE massive hype is well under way as Hollywood gears up for its annual back-slapping junket — the Oscar ceremony.

Studios have spent millions boosting their candidates. The trade press carry pictures of the hopefuls and every tinsel town star with a film on release is available for an interview or chat show spot.

It's all in the hope of swaying the decision of the 4000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences whose secret votes will determine who gets the coveted 13 1/2 inch high statuette.

The glittering ceremony will be watched on television by an estimated billion people in more than 40 countries. For Hollywood, it is the most important screening of the year.

But this year's Oscar race is one of the most open of recent times. And some nominees have found themselves in the situation of competing against themselves... where one of their roles has cancelled out another.

Heart-throb Michael Douglas has found himself in just that predicament with his performance as the philanthropist husband in 'Fatal Attraction'. That role has now been ignored by the Academy in favour of a nomination for Best Actor for his portrayal of a wheeler-dealer in 'Wall Street'.

Among the women Cher has been nominated as Best Actress for her role as the would-be bride in 'Moonstruck'. Yet she was also said to be in the running for the movie 'Suspect', too. Now the front runners have

finally sorted themselves out... but there have been a few surprises. Jack Nicholson has been nominated for 'Ironweed' and William Hurt for 'Broadcast News', just as people expected. But Hollywood pundits were also predicting nominations for Nick Nolte, Mickey Rourke and Albert Finney, who have all been passed over.

Even Stephen Spielberg has been snubbed for his directing of the 13 million dollar epic 'Empire of the Sun'.

But by far the biggest controversy this year is that outspoken Barbra Streisand has not been nominated at all for her non-singing role as a hooker in 'Nuts', despite being strongly tipped.

Hollywood insiders are now saying it is because Barbra has many enemies in tinsel town and would have been 'nuit' enough to have a go at them from the platform.

But then controversy is also a way of guaranteeing audience... something the Oscars are sure of.

Glenda Jackson once said of the Oscars ballyhoo: 'It's like Hollywood itself. All glass on the outside, but cheap and tawdry underneath.' It wasn't sour grapes, either, because she said it after winning an Oscar.

In 1972, Marlon Brando used the Oscar ceremony to express his annoyance at the treatment of the Indian population by the US Government.

When his name was announced as the winner of the Best Actor award for 'The Godfather', a beautiful Red Indian lady called Charlene Little Feather wiggled up to collect it.

George C. Scott announced that he didn't want to be nominated for an Oscar because he

didn't approve of the awards. And when he won one for Patton in 1970, he didn't bother to turn up.

Gregory Peck, one of the Academy officials, said: "We'll just have to stick it in a filing cabinet until George calls for it."

Presumably, it is still there.

Unpopular

One of the ceremony's unpopular recipients was Vanessa Redgrave in 1978. When she was given her Oscar for best supporting actress in 'Julia', she launched into a political speech attacking Israel and was loudly booed.

Meanwhile Bette Davis and Joan Crawford almost came to blows on stage. "Please do not refer to me as a broad," Crawford roared at Davis.

Then there were the Oscar-winning sisters Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine who refused to shake hands after Olivia had just received her award. The backstage rivalry, which had only been hinted at, was suddenly very much in the open.

In 1966, all the talk was of Kim Novak and husband Richard Johnson who swept onstage smiling and waving, to the tune of 'Love Walked In'. Kim had filed for a divorce that morning.

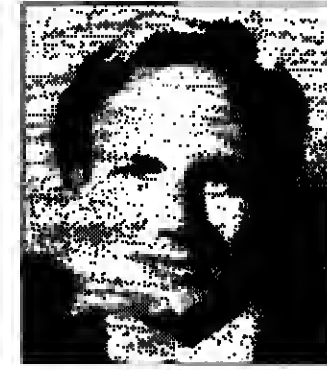
But there have been plenty of laughs, too.

In 1973, David Niven was at the microphone when a male stalker suddenly appeared from the wings and ran across the stage.

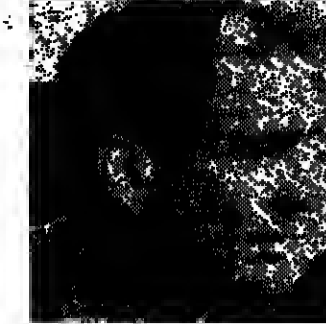
Quick as a flash, Niven quipped: "Isn't it fascinating that the only laughs that man will ever get in his life is by stripping off his clothes and showing his



Nominees for the Academy Award for best actress are from left to right: Cher (Moonstruck), Glenn Close (Fatal Attraction), Sally Kirkland (Anna), Holly Hunter (Broadcast News) and Meryl Streep (Ironweed).



Nominees for the Academy Award for best actor are from left to right: Robin Williams (Good Morning Vietnam), Michael Douglas (Wall Street), William Hurt (Broadcast News), Jack Nicholson (Ironweed) and Marcello Mastroianni (Dark Eyes).



Oscar nominees for best director are from left to right: Adrian Lyne (Fatal Attraction), Lasse Hallstrom (My Life As A Dog), Norman Jewison (Moonstruck), Bernardo Bertolucci (The Last Emperor) and John Boorman (Hope and Glory).

shmtcomings.

Then in 1942 there was Irving Berlin presenting a music Oscar to himself as the writer of 'White Christmas'.

"This goes to a nice guy," he said. "I've known him all my life."

When Greer Garson accepted the best actress Oscar for the movie Mrs Miniver the following year, her thank you speech lasted more than an hour.

Now recipients don't get a chance to launch into their 'Thank you, mom, thank you agent' eulogies. A red light begins to flash in front of them after 45 seconds and if they're still talking after a minute they are cut off.

Even so, the ceremony still lasts more than three and a half hours and has to be edited for TV consumption around the world. America is the only country in which the ceremony is screened live.

The first awards were made in 1927, in an attempt to boost the image of Hollywood. It took only five minutes in that year to distribute what were then called the 'Statuettes'.

In 1932, Mrs Margaret Herrick, newly-appointed secretary of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences arrived at work and found a statuette on her desk.

"It looks just like my Uncle Oscar," she said — and the

name stuck.

The Oscars are made of 92.5 per cent tin and 7.5 per cent copper, plated in gold. During the war, however, because of the restrictions on the use of metal, they were made of plastic. They are 13 1/2 inches high, weigh around eight pounds and they are valued at about \$300. Of course, what they represent is often worth millions in their own right. The winners must agree never to sell the statuette except back to the Academy, who will pay \$120 for it.

When members of the Academy have cast their votes, they are counted and the winners' names locked away in a vault. There has never yet been

a leak.

The youngest artist to win an Oscar was Shirley Temple, aged six and the shortest Oscar winning performance ever, was Anthony Quinn's dazzling eight minute appearance as the painter Gauguin in 'Lust for Life' in 1956.

The most Oscars won by a single movie was 'Ben Hur' in 1959. It took eleven. 'Gandhi' came near with eight.

But some actors have become almost as famous for not winning an Oscar as those who have. It is hard to believe that film greats like Lasse, Rin Tin Tin, John Barrymore, Marilyn Monroe and Richard Burton never won an Oscar.

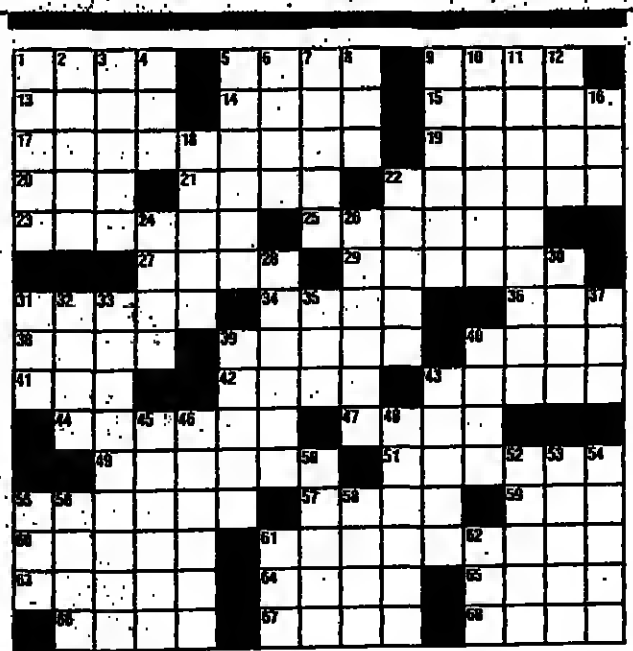
Burton was nominated an incredible seven times.

At this year's ceremony, 3000 guests will be there to see and be seen. Tickets cost up to \$100 but they go for ten times that amount on the black market.

But for 150 people, the tickets are free. They are 'seat sitters' — people whose job it is to make sure no seat is unoccupied during the Oscar ceremony. Wearing their tuxedos or gowns, they slip into the seats whenever guests go to the lavatory or up to the platform to collect an award.

That way there's always a full house for the TV cameras. And that's Hollywood.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Helpmate
 - Atlas contents
 - Seaweed
 - Neighborhood
 - Concerning
 - Namesakes of author Caspary
 - Odd
 - Marketplace in ancient Greece
 - All-inclusive abbr.
 - Close attention
 - Agreed upon
 - Midshipman's short coat
 - Fourth — (press)
 - Small bits of hope
 - Show affection
 - Swiftness
 - Odin's son
 - vadis?
 - Derby for one
 - Braces of pheasants
 - Atmosphere
 - Crampus
 - Prayer ending
 - William
 - Cylindrical
 - Brit. gun
 - Nine-day devotion
 - Curriculum vitae
 - College athlete's goal
 - Cast off
 - Nothing
 - Birth of Clyde Island
 - Odd
 - Hit
 - Protagonist
 - Egyptian dancer-singer
 - Made a hole-in-one
 - River to the North Sea
 - No. in Hannover
- DOWN**
- Thin cookie
 - Furious
 - Enclosure
 - Refect
 - Company
 - bellum
 - and Prejudice
 - novel
 - Stock market
 - guardian: Abbr.
 - incarnation of a god: Hinduism
 - Envoy
 - Odd
 - Borne's river
 - Dejected
 - In the van
 - Headliners
 - Footloose
 - Disdains
 - Part of a flower
 - Unerring
 - Sign of a Rialto hit
 - Actor's goal
 - Odd
 - Hasten
 - Cereal grass seed
 - Etonian's father
 - Aristas
 - Future flowers
 - Take turns
 - Smoothed
 - State of excitement
 - Ramains
 - Toby, Sam or Vanya
 - Football's Hurricanes
 - Novelist
 - Glasgow
 - Palmas
 - Columnist
 - Bornbeck
 - Engage
 - How come?
 - Actor
 - Richardson
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- LEER TOOTH MEEL
AIOE AMARA URGE
DRESSMAKER RIGS
OENOTE SEERIES
LURCH BSA
NIVEN HAIRSHIRT
ERIS PINNAE GOO
GAD TALKSIN LOU
ETA INDIAN LOST
VELVETERN RIOTS
ITA SEIGOS
MAYPOLE AISLES
ISEE OVERBLOUSE
LEAR OORIE MINA
OARS NEEDS ESEL

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 7
♥ 9 4 3 2
♦ 9 8 4 3
♣ A 6

WEST
♠ A Q J 8 6 4 3
♥ 8 6
♦ K
♣ K 9 3

EAST
♠ 9 5
♥ 10
♦ Q J 7 6 2
♣ J 10 8 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 2
♥ A K Q J 7 5
♦ A 10 5
♣ Q 7 4

The bidding:
West North East South
4 ♠ Pass Pass 5 ♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

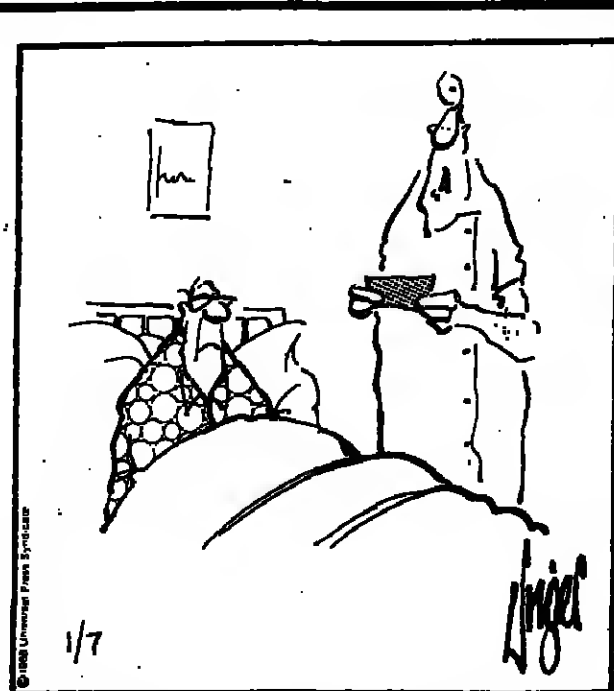
When you are in an "impossible" contract, imagine a lie of the cards that will enable you to get home. Then play as if that distribution exists.

Possession of the master suit confers a tremendous advantage. To outbid you, your opponents must go one level higher. West exploited that advantage, as well as the vulnerability, on this deal. His four-spade

preempt caused South no end of distress. The wise course would have been to double, which would have been penalty-oriented. However, partner is allowed to pull with a hand unsuitable for defense. (Four no trump on this auction is unconditionally for takeout.) However, South elected to gamble on five hearts, which looked pretty hopeless even though dummy produced useful values.

Declarer saw he had no chance unless West had led a singleton king of diamonds. He won the ace, drew trumps in two rounds and led a spade toward the king. West rose with the ace and safely exited with a spade. On dummy's king declarer stuffed one diamond, then continued with the ten of spades, on which he discarded his last diamond.

In with the queen of spades, West was left with a choice of losing alternatives. If he led a spade, declarer would pitch dummy's club loser and ruff in hand, and then his two club losers would be ruffed on the table. And a lead away from the king of clubs also would have conceded the contract, for declarer would have no option but to run it to his queen. Thus, declarer fulfilled his contract, losing only two spade tricks!



"I've got good news and bad news. We found you a donor, but the guy was 104 years old."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
Some small annoyance will make you feel rather nervous. Something you are doing will give you lots of satisfaction. You should not pay too much attention to your intuitions just now. Be prompt.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You should not take everything so personally. Others will take a little more notice of what you say. Make sure you do not exceed any speed limits. Be tactful.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
Do not promise to do something that you would find it difficult to carry out. You will have something to be quite pleased about. You should not take any risks with your health. Be selective.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
You should not allow your prejudices to distort your judgement. Also try to avoid allowing your resentments to get the better of you. You should avoid acting on impulse. Be considerate.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
Make sure you do not leave any doors or windows unlocked. Your personal circumstances will greatly improve. You will find it easier to get on with others. Leave yourself with enough room for manoeuvre.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
Make sure you do not have too many late nights in succession. Try not to let your emotions distort your judgement. Avoid placing too much reliance on luck. Be sensible.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You should not be too suspicious nor should you think everyone is against you. You should try to adopt a more steady pace. Avoid criticising others, but do not hesitate to be self-critical. Be tolerant.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You will tend to be a little on the nervous side. Leave yourself with enough room for expansion and development. You should not pretend to know more than you actually do know.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
You should take just a little more exercise but nothing too violent. You will be more persuasive. Make sure you do not judge by appearances alone. Be respectful.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You will be able to see things more clearly. Do not do more than one thing at any one time. Keep yourself up to date. Be reliable.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
You should try to look on the bright side. You will be better able to get a move on. Make sure you manage to restrain your curiosity. Be positive.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
If you try to bluff you could well be caught in the act. You should not turn your back on change. You will be able to increase your prestige and should do so. Be frugal.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior Readers,

Learning is part of living. We learn throughout our lives and sometimes the most important things we learn are not taught in the classroom.

Your parents and teachers plan many activities for you that help you to learn more than just the basic academic subjects.

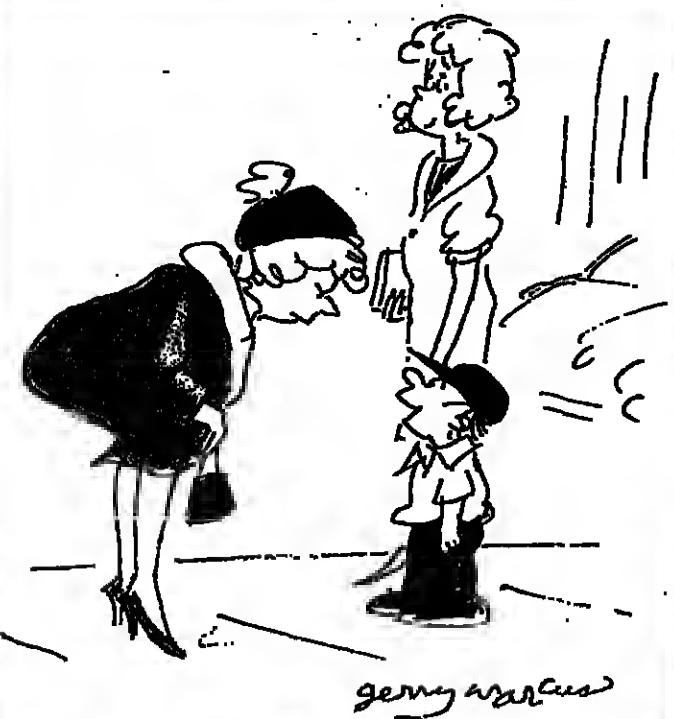
Today's feature article tells about some exciting things that children are learning outside their classrooms.

If you have things to share about learning that takes place in your home or school, please let me know about them.

Aunt Barbara

Happy birthday

Derryl Castelino celebrates his 2nd birthday tomorrow, March 16. Best wishes, Derryl, from your family and friends.



"You're getting pretty big yourself!"

Reading, writing, arithmetic and more

KUWAIT'S foreign schools do so much more than just provide the basic reading, writing and arithmetic instruction. And, they are doing it in such a way that children make the exciting discovery that learning is fun.

With the lovely spring weather many schools have had or are planning Sports Day activities. The

Gulf English School Infant 1 students held their Sports Day last week with 150 children participating in races and games specially chosen to demonstrate a number of important movement skills. The skills had been taught during the regular PE lessons at school, but the lessons were taken beyond the classroom to the sports field where running, jumping, throwing and catching

skills were displayed in a fun spirit of competition and cooperation—important concepts encouraged in sports. The Senior School students held their Sports Day yesterday.

Sports activities are an integral part of foreign school curricula and inter-scholastic games are played throughout the year. In a recent soccer tournament held between

12-year-old boys from Ecole Francaise and Kuwait English School, Ecole Francaise won 3-1. Win or lose, these events enhance a child's educational experience and broaden his/her learning environment.

Universal American School went beyond the basics in a couple of special activities recently. Eiji Ohashi, a master kite-

maker from Japan taught kite-making to grades 4, 5 and 6 with the help of several representatives of the Japanese Embassy. Children not only learned how to make a kite, but learned more about the culture of Japan as well.

Also at UAS, Dr Gopalakrishnan, a scientist from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and his wife, a research chemist, were

assisted by their children Shuba and Shankar and two friends Aanand Vasudevan and Shyam Venkatsweran in presenting a programme on the rich culture of India. Songs, dances, poetry and slides were used as teaching aids in this fascinating cultural programme that proved again that schools are teaching a lot more than reading, writing and arithmetic.



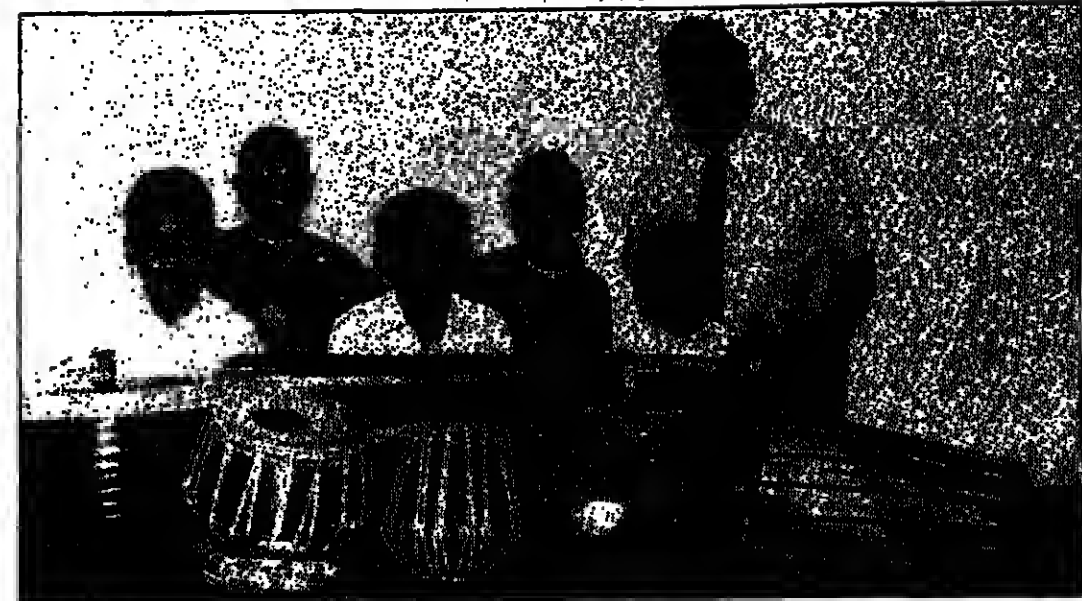
Gulf English School senior students compete in Sports Day activities at Yarmouk Stadium.



Kite-making at UAS with Eiji Ohashi (inset).



Infant 1 students await their turn at the GES Sports Day.

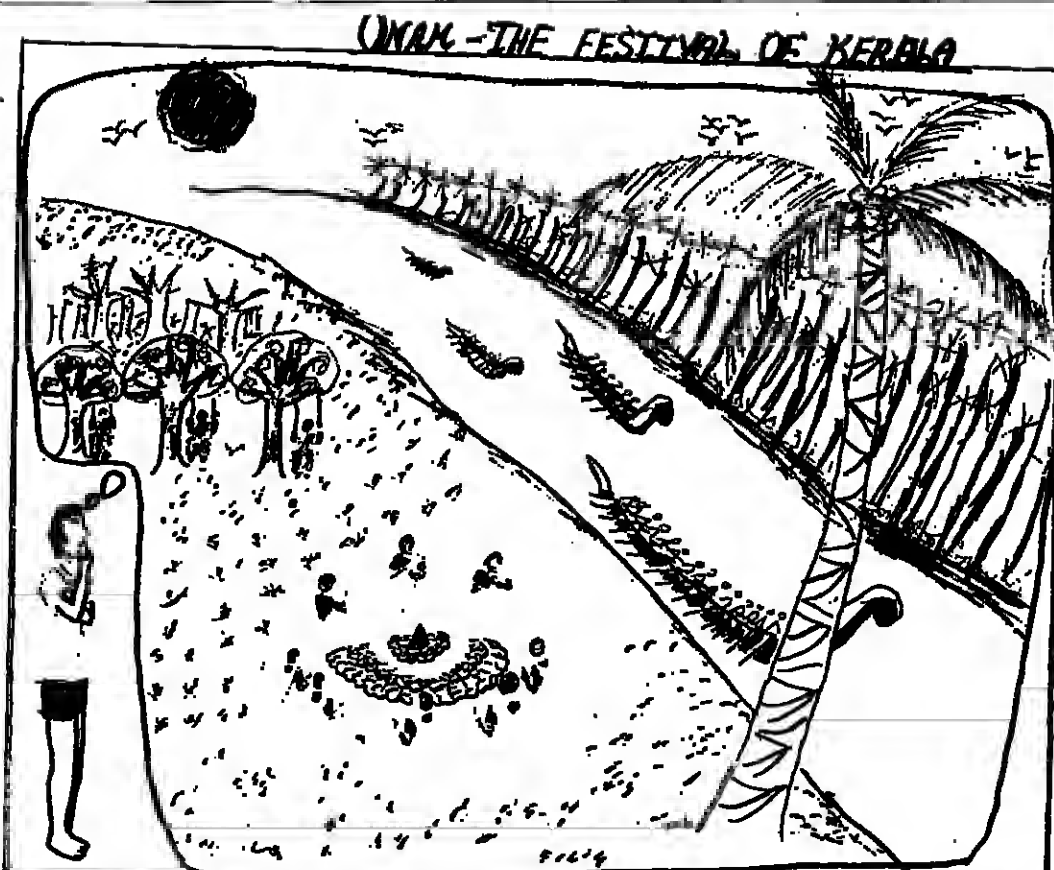


Presenting a programme on India at Universal American School were (left to right) Aanand, Dr. Baunathy Gopalakrishnan, Shyam, Shuba, Dr. T. C. Gopalakrishnan and Shankar.

Art exhibit



By Saba Parveen, 11 years, Indian School.



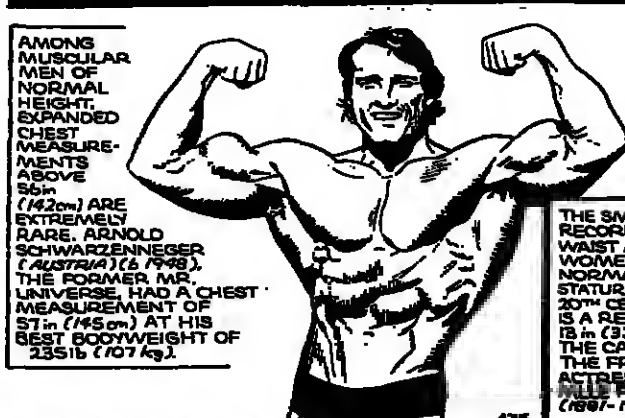
By Praveen Anto, 11 years, Indian School, Mangal.

Ninth wonder

The art master has asked his three students to make a copy of his picture, No 1. Each student then made three mistakes in their copies. Can you spot them?



Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



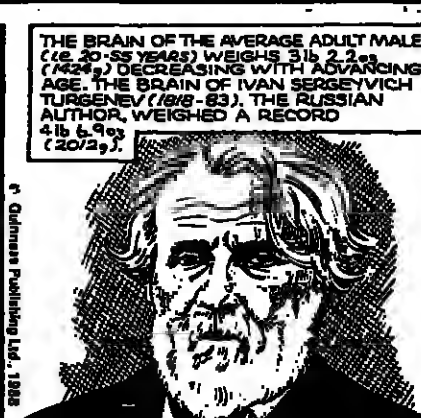
AMONG MUSCULAR MEN OF NORMAL HEIGHT, SPANDED CHEST MEASUREMENTS ABOVE 56" (142cm) ARE EXTREMELY RARE. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER (1947-1950) THE FORMER MR. UNIVERSE, HAD A CHEST MEASUREMENT OF 57" (145cm) AT HIS BEST BODYWEIGHT OF 255lb (117 kg).



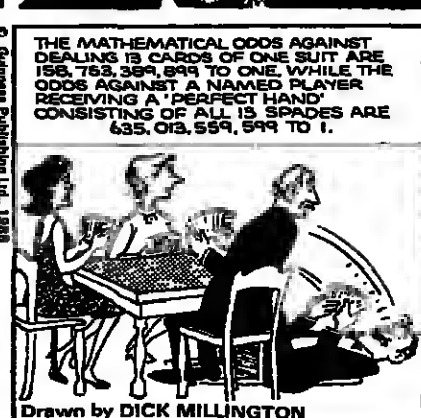
THE SMALLEST RECORDED WAIST AMONG WOMEN OF NORMAL STATURE IN THE 20TH CENTURY WAS 20" (51cm) IN THE CASE OF THE FRENCH ACTRESS (1887-1934).



IN THE LATEST RANKINGS LIST BASED ON MASTER POINTS AWARDED BY THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION, THE LEADING WOMAN PLAYER IS JACKIE MITCHELL (USA) WITH 247 POINTS.



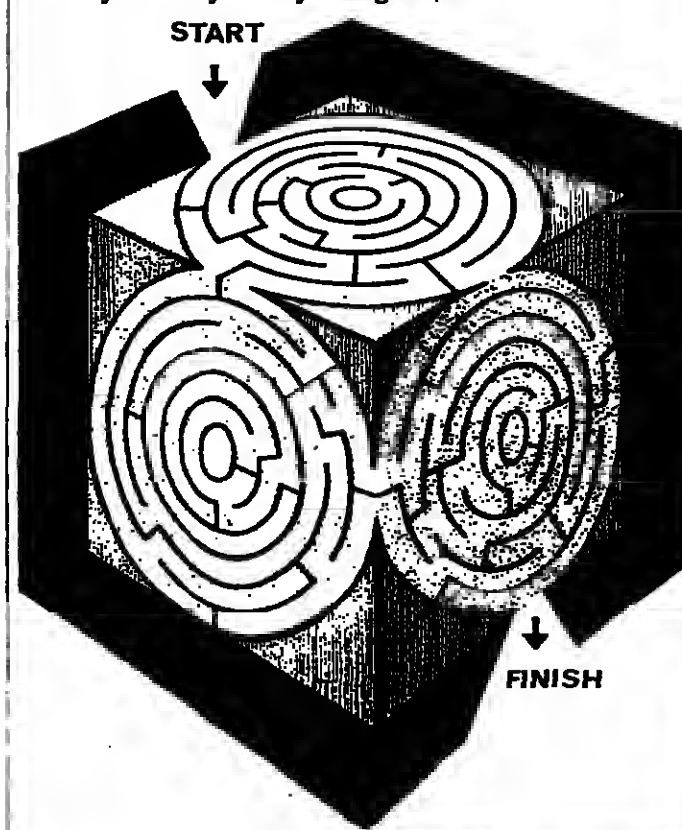
THE BRAIN OF THE AVERAGE ADULT MALE (25-30 YEARS) WEIGHS 3.2 LBS (1.45 kg) DECREASING WITH ADVANCING AGE. THE BRAIN OF IVAN SERGEVICH TURGENEV (1818-83), THE RUSSIAN AUTHOR, WEIGHED A RECORD 4.1 LBS (1.85 kg).



THE MATHEMATICAL ODDS AGAINST DEALING 13 CARDS OF ONE SUIT ARE 153,123,369 TO ONE WHILE THE ODDS AGAINST A NAMED PLAYER RECEIVING A PERFECT HAND CONSISTING OF ALL 13 SPADES ARE 635,013,559 TO 1.

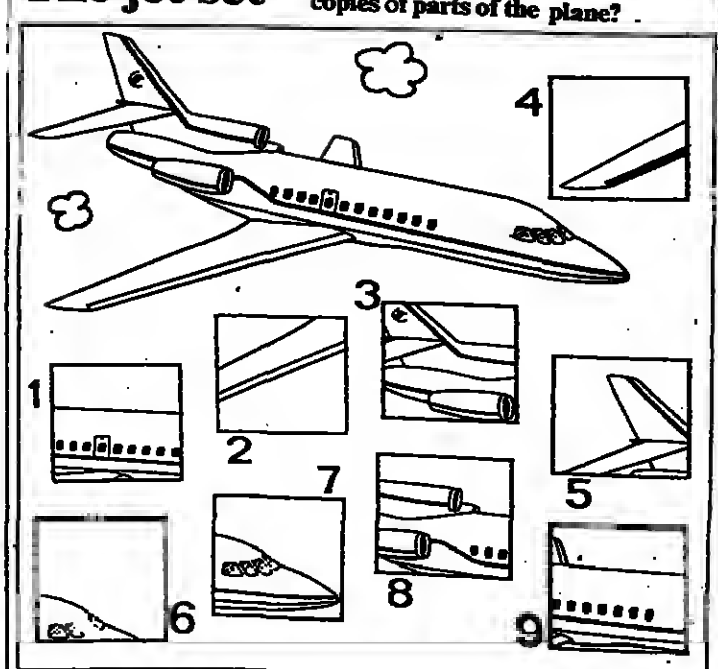
Cube maze

Can you work your way through this maze?



The jet set

Which of the small pictures are exact copies of parts of the plane?



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Taiwan to buy more US oil to cut trade surplus

TAIPEI, March 14, (Reuters): Taiwan, which started importing US oil last year, is bidding to buy more Alaskan crude this year to help cut its trade surplus with the United States, the state-run Chinese Petroleum Corporation said today.

Chinese Petroleum has since last October taken two deliveries, totalling more than 660,000 barrels, of the US oil.

The rest of the contracted crude will be delivered in two shipments to Taiwan between April and July, 1988, Chinese Petroleum president Kuan Yung-Shih said in an interview. He said the company had sent a bid to the United States to compete with other oil importers, including Japan and South Korea, for the purchase of the US crude this year.

Hope
"We hope to win the bidding this year, like we did last year, so that we could help the government reduce our trade surplus with the US," he said.

Taiwan's trade surplus with the United States fell over 40 per cent to \$1.67 billion in the first two months of 1988 from 2.35 billion a year ago, official figures show.

Trade officials said the surplus would substantially drop to about \$10 billion this year from a record high of more than 16 billion last year.

Taiwan produces only less than one per cent of its oil needs.

Malta resumes search for offshore oil

VALLETTA, March 14, (Reuters): Malta said on Friday it was resuming its search for offshore oil after a lapse of several years.

The government listed eight parcels of seabed in an area stretching from the Malta-Sicily channel to the immediate south of Malta.

Part of the area is near the Vega field south of Sicily, said to be the largest producer in the Mediterranean so far. It is estimated to hold 1.2 billion barrels of oil, of which between 30 and 50 per cent may be recoverable.

The nearby area within Maltese waters has not been explored.

Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami said earlier this week that 16 companies were interested in drilling off the island.

Ramadan calls for renewed efforts to stabilise world oil market

Nazer opposes Opec output cut

BAGHDAD, March 14, (Reuters): Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisbani Nazer said today his country opposed oil production cuts by Opec to halt a recent slide in world prices.

Arab oil experts and officials from 18 countries opened an energy meeting in Baghdad as Iran slammed two missiles into the Iraqi capital in a resumption of the deadly war of the cities between the two Gulf war belligerents.

Nazer, the only oil minister to attend the conference after the ministers from Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE cancelled at the last minute, told reporters: "No, I don't think there ought to be an output cut by Opec."

His remark immediately hit the price in Europe of North Sea Brent, the most widely traded

crude oil world spot market.

Brent for delivery in April had fallen nearly 50 cents a barrel to \$14.55 by 1300 GMT from its European close on Friday of around \$15. Brent closed in New York on Friday around \$14.90.

Nazer said consultations were under way within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to find ways to restore its grip on world oil prices, undermined since January by oversupply.

Participants
But he appeared to oppose a call by some Opec members for an emergency meeting of the group's price committee, to which Saudi Arabia belongs.

Minutes after the opening ceremony ended, participants heard a distant thud just before noon — about the time Iran said

it had fired missiles at Baghdad.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan presided over the opening, calling for renewed efforts by producing countries to stabilise the world oil market.

Oil prices have sunk as much as \$4 below Opec's fixed reference price of \$18 a barrel in recent weeks because of excess supply.

Algeria last week said Opec needed to make fresh output cuts to keep prices from falling further, but Nazer disagreed.

Rumours of an impending Opec output cut, denied by the group's Vienna headquarters, helped boost prices on the free or spot oil market last week by about one dollar, which Nazer called a very good sign.

But he appeared to reject any

moves that would cut Opec's share of world oil production to the possible benefit of non-Opec producers.

Saudi Arabia has led a group of Opec states more concerned with maintaining given output levels than raising prices. Other Opec states, led by Iran, favour output cuts and higher prices.

Opec states pumped around 17.3 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, up from January's 15.9 million bpd. No member appears to be violating the quota set for it by last December's Opec meeting, although Iraq is producing at will, having rejecting a quota less than that of Iran.

Exporter
Nazer declined to say what Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, might do if prices continued to decline and it was

unable to sell at the official Opec price.

Oil traders have speculated the kingdom may grant discounts to its Japanese term contract buyers in addition to those already available to four US multinationals.

Proposal
"We are not talking about market share. We're not talking about prices. We will just wait and see," Nazer said. Opec's course of action in the coming months would depend on informal consultations now under way, he added.

Nazer was cool to a Venezuelan proposal to convene an urgent meeting of Opec's price committee. "I don't think we should emphasise a meeting (of the committee) as the only solution," he said.

Bonn minister to visit Syria

DAMASCUS, March 14, (Reuters): The West German Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein will visit Syria on March 24 for talks to promote economic and commercial cooperation, embassy officials said today.

They said Klein would meet President Hafez Al Assad, Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara.

Investors see oil potential in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, March 14, (UPI): Private investors are closely watching a shake-up in the top ranks of Argentina's petroleum monopoly for clues that could set off an oil rush.

"Oilmen have a herd instinct," says Luis M. Rey, President of Pluspetrol, a private Argentine oil production and exploration company.

"When one or two move in, the others fall in behind," he says. The state oil monopoly, YPF, technically controls all of Argentina's energy resources, but traditionally it has been inefficient and poorly managed.

A succession of Argentine presidents — Juan Peron, Arturo Frondizi, Juan Carlos Onganía and, most recently, President Raul Alfonsín — have been forced to abandon nationalistic policies and ask foreign and private investors for help in production and exploration.

Contracts
The private sector, working on contracts with YPF, now accounts for about 30 per cent of Argentina's petroleum production, and about half that money is foreign.

It is not enough. Last year Argentina, which has the potential of becoming a net petroleum exporter, lost an estimated \$200 million in foreign exchange because of oil imports.

Rey and other private oilmen, both foreign and domestic, say that much greater amounts of money will flow into production and exploration when the govern-

ment streamlines its inducement procedures, especially for secondary exploration of existing fields.

On March 1, Jorge Lapena, who held the dual post of YPF president and energy secretary, abruptly resigned along with the top policymakers of both agencies.

The resignations came after public revelations of a scandal involving YPF middle managers accused of accepting kickbacks for contracts on oil facilities.

Shake-up
In the tangle of bureaucratic rhetoric that followed the shake-up, it was clear that Lapena mainly had irritated superiors by not moving fast enough in attracting private capital to make Argentina self-sufficient in oil production.

"The fact is, we produced less oil in 1987 than in 1986," complained Public Works Minister Rodolfo Terragno.

Daniel Montamat, the new YPF President, has not tipped his hand publicly, but is expected to take a major step in opening Argentina to new private foreign capital by offering "bids" for production in areas where there is known to be oil. Up to now, those areas were reserved for YPF.

Industry sources say Montamat will have to overcome resistance from labour unions, the self-perpetuating YPF bureaucracy and nationalists inside and outside of the government party

to draw up areas for bids.

Rey says another Alfonsín plan, for long-term exploration, has already attracted investment from most of the world's major oil companies, but he says the President won't see the benefits during his term, which expires in 1989.

Exploration
"Exploration takes time," he says. "It will take six or seven years before the benefits of these

contracts will be felt."

Where private money is needed for a quick fix, he says, is in existing oil fields where YPF lacks the money and expertise to recover petroleum that is difficult to extract.

Once they have a chance to bid for secondary production contracts, private and foreign investors probably will move faster into all sectors of the Argentine industry, he says.

Soviet co-ops will employ workers laid off by reforms

MOSCOW, March 14, (Reuters): New Soviet cooperative ventures will provide jobs for millions of workers laid off by Kremlin economic reforms, a Moscow academic was quoted as saying today.

Valdimir Tikhonov of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences told Tass news agency there were 14,000 cooperatives in the Soviet Union — indicating that some 5,000 had been created in the past three months. He forecast there would be even more.

"After the adoption of the law on cooperatives their number indisputably will grow considerably," Tass quoted Tikhonov as saying.

Cooperatives ranging from cafes and restaurants to beauty salons and craft workshops appeared throughout the Soviet Union last year after a new law on enterprises was introduced.

Many have been very successful.

At the end of last year, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said there were 9,000 cooperatives employing 90,000 people in the Soviet Union.

Tikhonov rejected arguments that the cooperatives were robbing the state sector of manpower, Tass said.

He noted that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms sought to reduce bureaucracy and would result in millions of job cuts.

Production
"Nearly four million work-places are expected to be closed within the next few years. Many of the people relieved of their jobs will now have an opportunity to join the cooperative societies," he said according to Tass.

Tikhonov said that, while most cooperatives were retail outlets, many production and

building cooperatives would appear.

The Soviet leadership sought to encourage cooperatives further by introducing a draft law this year allowing them to issue shares and set any price for their products.

The leadership was proposed progressive income tax for cooperatives in response to media reports that some have amassed fortunes while paying little tax.

Tikhonov referred to these "excessive, unjustified high earnings" and said the legislation being considered by the Supreme Soviet (parliament) was aimed at eliminating "distortions."

"The progressive income tax will not only ensure the principle of social justice, but serve as an incentive for the cut in the prices of the products or services provided by the cooperative societies," he said.

Government auctions Alaska coast waters for oil drilling

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, March 14, (UPI): In the first federal offshore oil lease sales in Alaska in four years, the government plans to auction oil drilling rights over a vast Arctic Ocean stretch where Eskimos fear drilling might interfere with whale hunts.

Wednesday's federal oil lease sale — the first of two aimed at bringing oil companies into Arctic waters — puts 18 million acres of the Beaufort Sea on the auction block. Then, in May, 29 million acres of the Chukchi Sea will be up for grabs.

Together, these lease sales put virtually the entire Arctic Ocean off Alaska up for sale, complained Tom Lohman, a lawyer for the North Slope Borough, a Minnesota-sized county with about 5,400 people in eight Eskimo towns.

In fact, these two sales stretch from the US-Soviet border to the west all the way to the US-Can-

ada border in the east. Some Beaufort tracts are claimed by Canada and are part of a boundary dispute.

These two Arctic sales mark the start of an ambitious federal leasing programme that, over the next five years, has targeted every offshore region of Alaska save one, said a wary Kurt Fredriksson of the governor's office.

Plans
"There is literally almost no area around Alaska that is not in their plans," he said. Some future sales raise concerns, but Wednesday's Beaufort sale and the upcoming Chukchi sale have Eskimos worried now.

Gov. Steve Cowper took up the Eskimos' chief concerns and asked secretary of Interior Donald Hodel to delete tracts north of Barrow — which Hodel did. Cowper also asked Hodel to require oil companies to stop

drilling during spring and fall bowhead whale migrations — which Hodel refused to do.

Cowper also asked Hodel for further studies of whale feeding areas in the eastern Beaufort near the village of Kaktovik, but Hodel declined. Eskimos wanted this area removed from the sale, but the state did not back this and so it was never considered.

"We're not happy that there's no seasonal drilling restriction, and we're not happy that an area of whale feeding activity is not deferred," Lohman said of the Beaufort sale. "It's not a good thing."

Eskimos are worried about spills, but Lohman said their immediate migration and swim farther out — away from the noise and out of reach of hunters.

"Hunters simply cannot get out far in their small skin or aluminium boats," Lohman said.

World Business Summary

Kaufman sees greater Fed role in evolving markets

NEW YORK, March 14, (Reuters): The Federal Reserve, the US Central Bank, will be called on to take a greater role in governing financial markets in the transition to a new financial world, economist Henry Kaufman said. "In the new financial world, the fundamental issue is what mechanism to put in place to govern it effectively," Kaufman said in remarks prepared for delivery on Saturday to the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration. "For the Federal Reserve, our new financial world will mean that its function as lender of last resort will expand, unless we accept the discipline of the market place, which is highly unlikely," said Kaufman, managing director of the Salomon Brothers investment house. Big financial institutions, with numerous international and domestic relationships, are not allowed to fail because the risk to society is deemed too high, he said. "The current arrangement... encourages excessive risk-taking because market discipline is not allowed to work," he said. "And no other governing approach, through new forms of regulation, is being implemented quickly enough... The problem is complicated by the divisions between US regulatory bodies and by differences among countries in terms of trading practices, accounting, and reporting standards, he said. The Fed's role will expand as distinctions among financial institutions blur and the volume of market transactions rises.

India to seek Japanese investment

NEW DELHI, March 14, (Xinhua): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is scheduled to visit Japan from April 20. The visit is reportedly aimed at boosting Japanese investment in this country.

This will be Gandhi's second trip to Japan since he came to power in October 1984 and the third visit by an Indian Prime Minister to that country since 1982. Besides inaugurating a month-long festival of India in Tokyo to reciprocate a Japanese festival held here last year, the Indian Prime Minister, to be accompanied by Finance Minister N.D. Tiwari, is expected to seek large-scale Japanese investment in India.

Local press today quoted official sources as saying that India will offer Japan a package deal which is believed to have been prepared in consultation with a 30-member Japanese trade and investment delegation who visited India last month.

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International Bond Highlights

London—Italy's state railway company, Ferrovie dello Stato, is issuing a 500 mln dir Eurobond due April 20, 1993, paying 8-1/2 pct and priced at 101-3/8 pct, J.P. Morgan Securities said as lead manager. (RTVM 1059).

London—National Westminster Bank Plc said it is issuing a 300 mln mark Eurobond due 1998 paying six pct and priced at 100-1/4, lead manager by Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale. (RTZN 1531)

Zurich—The Leads Permanent Building Society is launching a 200 mln Swiss franc 4-1/8 pct five-year bond priced at 101 pct, lead manager Union Bank of Switzerland said. (RTZM 1530)

London—General Electric Capital Canada is issuing a 150 mln Canadian dir Eurobond due April 19, 1993, paying 9-1/2 pct and priced at 101-1/8, Dominion Securities Inc said as lead manager. (RTYN 1401)

Paris—Local authority funding agency Credit Local de France Caecel SA is issuing a 100 mln Ecu bond due on May 11, 1993, paying 7-1/2 pct and priced at 101-1/2 pct, lead manager Credi Commercial de France said.

Berne—a committee set up by the Swiss government proposes that Swiss franc bonds issued by foreigners should be exempted from turnover tax, the Finance Ministry said. (RTXZ 1344)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-3/8 1/8	8-3/4 5/8	8-7/8 13/16
FFI 3.25/35	3.35/45	3.35/45
PAR 7-3/4 13/16	7-3/4 1/8	8-1/16 3/16
ZUR 1/8 3/8	1-12/1 3/4	1-3/4 2
BRX 3.50	6.00 1/8	6-1/16 3/16
ROM 10-1/4 10-3/4	11-1/8 11-5/8	11-1/8 11-5/8
AMS 3-7/8 4-0/0	3-15/16 4-0/0	4-0/0 4-1/8
TOK 3.5625 6.250	3.9375 4.0000	3.8125 8.750
ECU 6.00 6.25	6.25 6.37	6.43 6.56

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	39/16	41/16
3 months	41/16	49/16
6 months	47/16	47/8
1 year	41/16	53/16

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	67	65	66	65	527.50	510	525
ACC 149	149	146	GNFC	32	31.50	31.50	MUKAND	83	81	80
ASIA PAINT 152.50	150	147.50	GSFC	107	107	105	ORRAY	21	19	20.50
BAJAJ AUTO 436.25	427.50	412.50	HIND LEVER	79	79	70	PEICO	27	26.50	27
BAL. RAYON 169	170	177	HINDALCO	127	128	124	PFIZER	71	70	71
BON. DYING 137	130	130	HINDCOCCO	84.75	82.50	81.50	PRE. AUTO	26.50	26.50	26.75
BSE INDEX 419.98	428.37	428.37	IND ORG	16.50	17	16	RELIANCE	88	89	86
CENTURY SPG 820	790	770	INDRAN	54	53	52.50	SIEMENS	67	68	65
COLGATE 193.75	195	190	INDROL	172.50	170	166.50	SPIC	29	28.25	26.75
DEEPAKERT 26.50	25.50	27	ITC	34.50	33.50	36	STOMILLS	246.50	240	245
EL. HOTEL 42	42	44	JKSINTH	63	61	60	TATA PWR	195	193.75	192.50
ESKAYE 173.75	162.50	170	L AND I	87	85	85	TATACHEM	62.50	62.50	62.50
ESSAR 17.75	17	17.50	MAHINDRA	56	55.50	54	TELCO	357.50	365	370
GAR. POLY 76.50	76.50	77.50	MASTERSR	9.12	9	9.12	TISCO	635.75	642.50	636.25
GE. SHIP 24.50	24.50	24.50	MATERN PL	101	98	100	VOLTAS	252.50	250	255

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
AEG	237.0
ALLIANZ VR	1355.0
BADENWERK	177.2
BASF	261.3
BAYER	261.3
BAYER HYP	354.0
BAYER VER	346.0
BBC	307.5
BIF	331.0
BIM	516.5
CHIEF-VER	0
COMERZBANK	230.0
CONTI GUM	233.3
DATNER BEN	694.0
DEUTSCH BANK	421.5
DLW	336.0
DRESDENER	267.0
DT BAROCK	155.8
EL. INDEX	452.30
GOLDMANN	244.8
GUTHRIE	0
HARPER	399.5
HENCKES AG	257.2
HOECHST	112.2
HOERTEL	188.0
HUSSEL WLD	434.0
KALLI SALZ	141.0
KARSTADT	424.0
KLAUFHOF	377.5
KLOPP H	99.5
KLOECK W	0
LINDE	562.0
LUFTHANSA	145.0
MAN	154.0
MANNESMAN	122.0
MERCEDES	567.0
METALLURG	226.0
NIXDORF PF	603.0
NORSK HYD	47.90
PHILIP KON	625.0
POSCHE	486.5
PREUSSAG	135.5
PWA	196.5
RHEIN	204.1
RHEIN P	197.0
RHEINMETAL	252.0
SALAMANDER	266.0
SCHERING	454.0
SEL	307.0
SIEMENS	377.0
THYSEN	130.0
VARTA	261.0
VEBA	256.2
VEW	163.3
VOLKSWAGEN	233.5

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
C. H. TUNNEL	14.30
CHINA C	7.85
CHINA GAS	16.30
CHINA L-P	19.30
CHINA MOTOR	18.70
COSMO PROP	4.30
EVERGO IND	.31
FAR EAST C	.77
G. ORIENT	0
H. S. DEVELOP	8.75
H. S. INDEX	595.45
HANG LUNG	4.95
HANG SENG	31.75
HAW PAR BR	0
HK ELEC CO	8.30
HK KOWLOON	6.90
HK LAND CO	7.85
HK SHAN BK	7.50
HK SHAN HT	4.17
HK TELE CO	7.60
HUTCH WHAN	8.85
IND EO PAC	8.60
JARDINE M	12.10
KOM. COIN M	11.40
NEW WORLD	9.15
PAUL Y. CON	1.72
REALTY DEV	5.45
S. H. K. CO	1.89
S. H. K. PROP	9.95
S. H. K. SEC	1.56
S. H. K. DARY	5.40
STELUX MFG	5.40
SWIRE PAC	17.70
T. V. B. CO	14.00
TAI CHEUNG	3.45
UNION BANK	1.59
WOCK MARD	0
WOCK MARI	0
WORLD INTL	2.97

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
AJINOMOTO	3270
AKAI ELEC	597
AKAI	975
ASAHI GAS	1910
ASAHI OPT	615
BANK TOKYO	1550
BRIDGESTON	1310
CANON	1130
CASIO COMP	1290
CHUKAI MFG	0
CITIZEN W	652
D-1 CHIKI	3130
DAI NIPPON	800
DAI NIPPON	2560
DAI NIPPON	980
DAI NIPPON	530
DAIWA	1730
DAIWA SEC	2630
EBARA MFG	898
EISAI	2540
FUJITSU	1500
FUJITSU BANK	3420
FUJITSU PHOTO	4270
FUJITSU SA	2020
FUJITSU CP	717
HITACHI	1360
HONDA MOT	1680
ISSETAN	1390
ITO YOKADO	4120
JAP SYN RU	1020
JAPAN AIR	15100
JAPAN MET	499
KAJIMA	1490
KANSAI EL	2880
KAO SOAP	1940
KAWASAKI H	361
KAWASAKI S	403
KIRIN BEV	2300
KOMATSU	640
KUBOTA LTD	680
KYOCERA	5400
MAKITA EL	1820
MARUI	3020
MATSUITA EI	2550
MATSUITA EL	2480
MEIJI SEIK	960
MITSUBI CP	1200
MITSUBI EL	670
MITSUBI EST	2120
MITSUBI RY	663
MITSUBI SU	788
MITSUBISHI	1520
MITSUBISHI EL	1170
NICHICOM	1420
NIHON CHMT	860
NIKKO SEC	2050
NIP ELEC	2110
NIP KOKKAN	394
NIP OIL	1210
NIP STEEL	456
NIP YUSEN	595
NIS MOTOR	875
NOMURA SEC	3900
OLYMPUS	1140
PENTA OIL	862
PIONEER	3280
RENGH	841
RICOH	1260
SANKYO	2180
SANKYO ELEC	545
SEIYU ST	2420
SEKISUI PB	1870
SHARP	1010
SHISEIDO	1700
SONY	5190
SUMITOMO	1110
TAISEI	919
TAISHO MRN	1160
TAKEDA CH	3180
TEIJIN	836
TOKI NEW IX	91.42
TOKIO MRN	2020
TOKYO ELEC	1200
TOKYO SEC	1210
TOKYO POMR	5890
TORAY IND	829
TOSHIBA EL	792
TOTO	2210
TOYO KOGOT	450
TOYOTA MOT	2380
TAMARA	1160
YAMATCHI	2000
YAMAZUCHI	4220
YAMAZAKI	1470

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE LOWER IN ACTIVE TRADE. TOKYO, MARCH 14, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER DUE TO CAUTION AS INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS BEGAN TO CLOSE THEIR BOOKS AHEAD OF THE FISCAL YEAR-END MARCH 31 AND THURSDAY'S RELEASE OF U.S. JANUARY TRADE DATA, BROKERS SAID.

"TOO MUCH IS GOING ON FOR ANYONE TO BE AGGRESSIVE ON THE BUYING SIDE," SAID ANALYST SIMON SMITHSON OF KLEINWORT BENSON INTERNATIONAL INC.

THE NIKKEI INDEX LOST 110.22 POINTS, OR 0.43 PCT, TO 25,433.51, AFTER HITTING A HIGH OF 25,553.01 AND A LOW OF 25,345.28. IT FELL 74.09 POINTS ON FRIDAY. FALLS LED RISES 2.3 TO ONE IN TURNOVER OF 950 MLN SHARES AGAINST 1.8 BILLION.

SECURITIES HOUSE, BANK, CREDIT/LEASE, COMMUNICATIONS, RUBBER, ELECTRONIC, PHARMACEUTICAL, PRECISION INSTRUMENT, GAS, NON-LIFE INSURANCE AND SOME MANUFACTURING ISSUES DECLINED.

ROLLING STOCK, SERVICE AND SHIPPING SHARES ADVANCED SLIGHTLY.

WHAT EXACTLY THE END OF THE WEEK WILL BRING CONCERNS INVESTORS, AND THERE ARE NO FRESH POSITIVE FACTORS TO TEMPER THE WORRY, BROKERS SAID.

MOST SPECIAL MONEY TRUSTS, OR TOKKIN, WILL CLOSE THEIR BOOKS BETWEEN THE 18TH AND THE 20TH OF THIS MONTH, AND THE OVERALL EFFECT IS STILL IN QUESTION, THEY ADDED.

THE GOING ESTIMATES FOR THE TRADE FIGURES GENERALLY RANGE FROM BETWEEN 13 TO 14 BILLION DLRS, ALTHOUGH KLEINWORT BENSON PREDICTS A 14.5 BILLION DLR SHORTFALL.

"THE MARKET WON'T LIKE IT, THEY WON'T LIKE IT AT ALL," SAID KLEINWORT'S SMITHSON OF THAT FIGURE. "IF IT IS AS MUCH AS THAT, THE DOLLAR WILL GROW WEAKER."

"THE STOCK AND CURRENCY MARKETS HAVE NOT REALLY MOVED A GREAT DEAL RECENTLY, AND THERE IS PENT-UP ENERGY," SAID A FUND MANAGER AT THE BANK OF TOKYO. "THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THEY WILL MOVE ON THE (TRADE) NUMBERS."

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 14, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER IN ACTIVE TRADING AS A LATE ROUND OF PROFIT-TAKING WIPED OUT EARLY GAINS, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX DROPPED 10.77 POINTS TO 2,584.68 AND THE BROADER-BASED HONG KONG INDEX SHED 6.14 TO 1,691.58.

BROKERS SAID THE MARKET OPENED STRONGLY ON EXPECTATIONS OF BETTER CORPORATE RESULTS DUE IN THE COMING WEEKS.

BUT SHORT-TERM INVESTORS DECIDED TAKE PROFITS AND SELL INTO THE MARKET'S STRENGTH FOLLOWING GAINS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, THEY SAID. TURNOVER SLID TO 1.43 BILLION H.K. DLRS FROM FRIDAY'S 1.47 BILLION.

AMMAN

OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.37 1.37
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.89 1.89
ARAB BANK	114.0 114.0
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.40 4.35
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47 1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	0.93 0.94
ARAB INT. INV. TRAD.	---
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.96 0.79
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53 0.58
ARAB JOR. INVST/BD	2.12 2.12
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD	0.38 0.37
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.10 2.10
ARAB POTASH CO.	0.76 0.75
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65 1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.31 16.30
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00 0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	30.00 30.00
DAR AL SHAAS PRESS	0.41 0.41
DAR ALDANA DV/INV.	1.53 1.49
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.45 0.45
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.59 0.59
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.05 4.05
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39 2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.34 1.33
GENERAL MINING	1.50 1.50
HIMMEL MINERALS	0.79 0.79
HOLY LAND INS.	1.15 1.20
IND. MATCH JEMCO	0.75 0.73
INDUSTRIAL DEVLPT BNK	1.34 1.34
INDUSTRIAL/COM/AGR.	1.46 1.45
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	---
INTERN. COM/INV	0.64 0.64
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.96 0.96
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64 0.64
ITERNED/PETRI/CH	1.50 1.47
J. FOUR-SP COOK	0.75 0.75
JERUSALEM INS.	1.31 1.32
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	13.50 13.55
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.04 1.04
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01 25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.47 1.47
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20 1.18
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.03 1.02
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50 2.50
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.75 1.75
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20 1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.76 0.77
JOR LIM BRICK	0.27 0.26
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	---
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.44 2.44
JOR PAPER CARDSDRG	3.15 3.16
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.30 2.25
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.19 1.18
JOR PRESS/PUBLIS.	2.05 2.00
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	3.00 3.65
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.67 0.67
JOR SECURIT. CORP	0.91 0.91
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	3.06 3.06
JOR WOOD INDUSTRT	1.33 1.33
JOR WORSTED MLL	4.50 4.35
JOR. KAJAIT AGR	1.00 1.00
JOR. PETROLEUM REF	7.10 7.10
JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.60 5.50
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	1.85 1.86
JORDANIAN GULF REAL	0.33 0.33
JORDAN DAIRY	1.03 1.03
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.20 1.20
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	0.94 0.95
JORDAN TANNING	1.59 1.59
JORDAN TANNING	1.92 1.90
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74 0.74
MACH/EQUI/RENT/MAIN	0.84 0.83
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69 0.73
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.60 0.40
MIDDLE EAST INS	60.00 60.00
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.60 0.60
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	1.86 1.83
NAT/CABEL/VIRE/MF	1.01 1.01
NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.26 1.28
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.50 0.50
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.85 0.83
NATIONAL STEEL	2.96 2.95
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25 0.28
PETRA BANK	2.02 2.00
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50 0.50
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.49 0.48
RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	0.80 0.80
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.43 0.43
SHIPPING LINES	0.87 0.87
SPINNING WEAVING	0.94 0.94
THE HOUSING BANK	1.60 1.60
UNITED INSURANCE	2.50 2.50
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	1.82 1.84
UNIVERSAL INS.	0.72 0.72
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.85 0.85
YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.10 1.10

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR			BC-A	.48	67.00	75.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	LC-A	.47	.49	
AC-A	9.30	9.30	LC-B	.50	.51	
ANSCOR	5.10	5.00	PX-A	.39	.38	
FER		2.50	PX-B	.39	.39	.40
GLO	31.50	31.00	DIL SECTOR			
PLDT	140.00	139.00	BP-A	.015	.015	.016
KPSI-A		1.40	BP-B		.015	.016
SMC-A	128.00	127.00	LRC-A		.0026	.003
SMC-B	147.00	145.00	LRC-B		.0028	.003
MINING SECTOR			OPW-A	.039	.038	.039
APX-A	.031	.03	OPW-B	.039	.039	.04
APX-B	.03	.032	DV-A	.035	.036	.037
APX-C	.03	.03				

American business inventories rise 0.4pc

WASHINGTON, March 14, (Reuters): Stockpiles of unsold goods grew a surprisingly small 0.4 per cent in January after a 0.9 per cent increase in December, the government said today.

Economists had expected business inventories to rise about 0.8 per cent in January. The smaller rise suggested firms were succeeding in bringing output back into line with demand after a massive accumulation of unsold goods in the fourth quarter of 1987.

As a result, companies should not need to cut production sharply in the months ahead, boding well for the economy.

The Commerce Department said US business inventories rose \$3.0 billion during January to 705.85 billion. The 0.9 per cent rise in December was a revision from the Department's original estimate of 0.8 per cent.

Sales

Business sales fell in January by \$3.36 billion, or 0.7 per cent, to 462.78 billion after a December increase of \$5.53 billion, or 1.2 per cent.

The figures are adjusted for seasonal variations.

Inventories of durable goods rose to \$431.09 billion in January from 428.95 billion, while non-durable inventories edged up to \$274.76 billion from 273.90 billion, the Commerce Department said.

A breakdown of the figures showed most of the increase was at the wholesale level.

Retailers, who have been offering a wide range of discounts to move goods off the shelves, ran down their inventories in January.

Manufacturers' inventories increased to \$336.34 billion in January from 333.66 billion in December, while retailers' stocks fell to 207.70 billion from 209.87 billion.

Economic giants told to restructure their economies

MELBOURNE, Australia, March 14, (AP): Prime Minister Bob Hawke said today the world economy is facing its worst upheaval since World War II and urged the United States, Japan and West Germany to undertake large scale restructuring.

Hawke told a Congress of 800 trade unionists from 97 countries that increased exports, not protectionism, was the key.

"The world's major economies, notably the United States and Japan, have to undertake large scale economic reconstruction," he told the 14th World Congress of the International Congress of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

The ICFTU claims to represent some 87 million workers worldwide.

Organisers said the this year's conference, delayed so it could be held in Australia's bicentennial year, is the biggest ever. The congress traditionally meets every four years.

Framework

"The congress brings us together at a time when the world economy is experiencing stresses so extreme they threaten to undo the framework on which the international community has relied since World War II," said Hawke, a former president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

"In the case of the US, the need is to become more export-oriented, particularly in terms of manufacturing and services," he said.

For Japan and West Germany, he said, the task is to promote production of non-traded goods and to import more.

"Let me stress increased protectionism is not the answer," Hawke said.

Sterling drops slightly

Dollar eases, gold little changed

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters): The shadow of the announcement due later this week of US January trade figures fell across money markets today.

Concern that America's trade gap may be seen to have widened when the figures are announced on Thursday depressed Tokyo share prices and weakened the dollar, dealers reported.

The dollar meanwhile touched quoted lows in early European trading of 1.6548 West German marks and 126.45 yen. It had ended last week in New York worth 1.6585 and 127.25.

Estimates for the US January trade deficit generally range from \$13 to 14 billion.

Tokyo share prices fell due to increasing caution amongst investors ahead of Tuesday's release of the latest US trade figures, brokers said.

The approaching end of the Japanese financial year on March 31 is also slowing business down, they said.

"Too much is going on for anyone to be aggressive on the buying side," said analyst Simon Smithson of Kleinwort Benson International.

The key Tokyo share index lost 110.22 points, or 0.43 per cent, to 25,433.51, after falling 74.09 points last Friday.

The estimates for the US January trade deficit generally range from \$13 billion to 14 billion, although Kleinwort Benson predicts a \$14.5 billion shortfall.

"The market won't like it, they won't like it at all," said Smithson of that figure. "If it is as much as that, the dollar will grow weaker."

"The stock and currency markets have not really moved a great deal recently, and there is pent-up energy," said a fund manager at the Bank of Tokyo.

"There is a possibility they will move on the (US trade) numbers."

The US dollar was steady today, ending in Tokyo at 127.23 and 1.6610/15 West German marks against last Friday's New York close of 127.30 yen.

Oropeo

The British pound sterling dropped slightly, ending in Tokyo at \$1.8535/40.

In other regional share markets, the main Sydney share index rose seven points to 1,361.3 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell eight points to 2,583, according to preliminary figures.

Gold, meanwhile, ended the day in Tokyo at around \$441.10 an ounce compared to New York's Friday close of \$441.50.

London stocks firmed at the start of business but by mid-morning the FTSE index of 100 blue chip British stocks had eased to just below its Friday close of 1,811.6.

London investors hope for tax cuts in a British budget due tomorrow, but enthusiasm is checked by the present strength of the pound sterling which threatens to pinch export earnings.

The pound appreciated sharply last week, as relatively high British interest rates attracted international money to sterling assets, and this morning rose as high as 3.0838 marks and \$1.8610 before easing a little.

Easier

French shares began the week slightly easier in very thin trading with the 50-share Bourse indicator down 0.27 per cent from Friday's close.

Dealers said a weak franc and worries over the coming presidential elections made for an uncertain French market.

Caution dominated the Frankfurt bourse where shares were barely changed, also in very thin business.

"Everyone is cautious because of the dollar. It hasn't changed much since Friday but there is a fear it could decline during the course of the week," one dealer said. German exporters' stocks are particularly sensitive to dollar weakness.

Early quotas suggested that North Sea oil prices, barometer of world trends, were a little easier on news from Baghdad that Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer had said he did not favour new Opec output cuts to deal with an oversupply in the market.

Crude from the British North Sea Brent field traded for May loading around \$14.80 a barrel, after being above \$15 on Friday, traders said.

Oil is not the only commodity in oversupply, nor was the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries the only commodity organisation that was in trouble over how to defend a price line.

Cocoa prices began in London £13 (\$24) a tonne lower at £940 (\$1,748) a tonne following the collapse of International Cocoa Agreement (Icoco) talks early Saturday morning.

Assistance

The oil revenues also enabled Arab countries to extend development assistance at both regional and international levels.

Noting the instability in the international oil market, Kibbi called for widening the scope of cooperation between oil-producing and consuming countries.

He also stressed the need for Arab integration in the industrial sector, especially in refining and petrochemical industries, by the setting up of joint ventures and exchange of knowledge and expertise.

trillion was allocated for Arab economic development plans.

Oil revenues also contributed to the development of cooperation among Arab countries, he said, adding that various joint Arab ventures were set up with a combined outlay of around \$53 billion.

He said that Iraq was also developing alternative energy resources such as hydropower plants, adding that efforts were also being made to develop solar energy and nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

Cheddi Kibbi, Secretary General of the Arab League, one of the sponsoring organisations of the conference, told the meeting that oil revenues gave Arab countries the opportunity to invest in huge projects in various sectors, including infrastructure and production.

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IN FOCUS

The world today



A TRADITIONAL Javanese house made of cake is on display at Jakarta's Convention Hall. The house measures 7.5 metres wide, 5.75 metres high and 5.5 metres long and is made of 51,090 pieces of cake. Next to it is a 10-metre high 'Garuda' bird, Indonesia's national symbol, made entirely of icing sugar. Bakers Joyce Aswan and Nila Chandra hope the work gets recognition from the Guinness Book of World Records. (Reuter wirephoto)



SIAN EDWARDS, 33, at the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden on Sunday where she will make her debut as the Royal Opera's first woman conductor. Her first performance will be on April 29, conducting a new production of Sir Michael Tippett's 'The Knot Garden' with the composer present. (Reuter wirephoto)



FRENCH President Francois Mitterrand followed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl goes first to greet the staff which will prepare their dinner before beginning bilateral talks in Durbach, West Germany, yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



RESCUE workers look over the damage caused after two avalanches smashed into the tiny Austrian ski resort of St Anton early Sunday. The avalanche killed seven people who were still in their beds. Five of the dead were Swedish and two others local Austrians. Two huge masses of snow and rubble plunged down a steep mountainside in quick succession at about 6:50 am local time. (Reuter wirephoto)



LIEUTENANT COLONEL Peter Gange (left) of Nato's Firecorps in discussion with Soviet military observer Colonel Viktor Kolegov at the Nato exercise 'Arrowhead Express' in Tromsø, Norway, on Sunday. (Reuter wirephoto)



HIS favourite ivory-handled pistol at his hip, Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi talks with a senior commander at his bush headquarters on Sunday. (Reuter wirephoto)



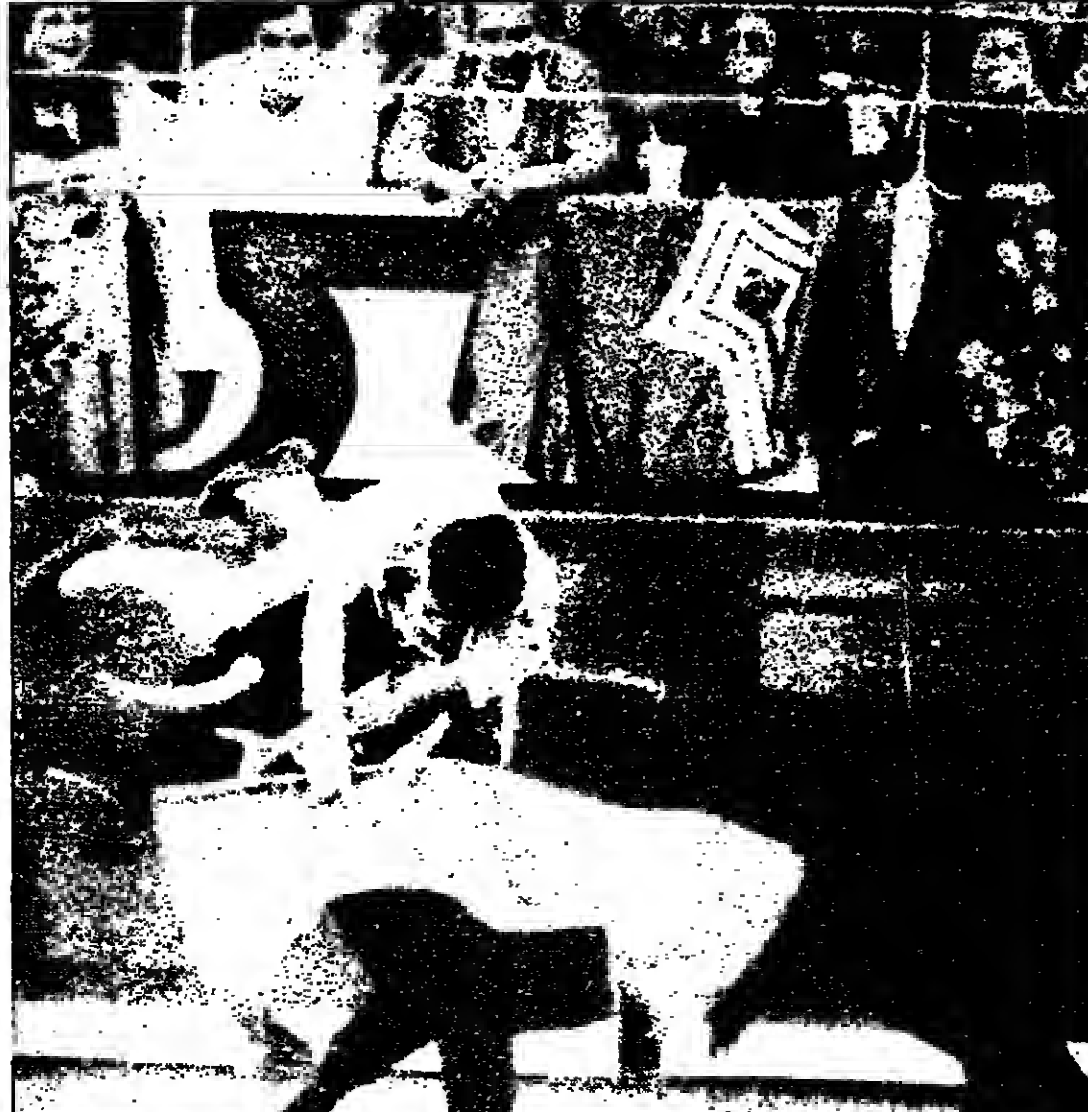
SOME 2,000 people of all races packed a Cape Town cathedral on Sunday for an interfaith service in protest at the South African crackdown on dissent. Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Allan Boesak condemned the government for threatening to act against the churches. (Reuter wirephoto)



POLICE and reporters look at some of the 200 kilograms of No. 3 heroin which was seized in a raid early Sunday morning in Hong Kong. It was the biggest haul of heroin in the British colony, and was equivalent to half the total amount seized last year, a police official said. (Reuter wirephoto)



A JEWELLER in the Dubai gold souk shows off a 21-carat gold pacifier to keep baby quiet for a mere \$160. The jeweller sells one a month on average, mainly to wealthy local Arabs. (Reuter wirephoto)



NOVICE bullfighter Miguel Marcos gets lifted off the ground by a raging bull during the first fight of the day on Sunday. Marcos was slightly gored in his left leg and could not continue the fight. (Reuter wirephoto)



EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak (right) and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan pose in front of the pyramid of Chephren at Giza yesterday. They visited the pyramids and had a working lunch near the Pharaonic monuments. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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IN Kuwait City, Sharq, near Amiri Hospital, in a two-bedroom flat, sharing for a Muslim couple/small family. Tele: Javed, 2442647, 4-7 pm.

(AT2-41370-3)

FARWANIYA, near Holiday Inn. One bedroom for a Mangalorean bachelor to share with a family. Tele: 4746536, after 5:30 pm.

(AT3-M/Y-3)

ABBASIYA, behind telecommunication building. One room for 2 Mangalorean or Goan bachelors, to share with a Mangalorean family. Tele: Sebastian 4811466, 8 am to 11 am, 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

(AT2-41358-3)

FARWANIYA, near petrol pump. One room with water and electricity for Indian or Filipino working ladies or family to share with two Indian people. Rent KD60. Tele: Sebastian, 4731855 ext 1242, 7am-2 pm.

(AT4-41388-2)

IN Fahaheel, Al Hashan Commercial Complex, atop Safeway. One fully furnished CAC room with water and electricity for two bachelors or a couple. Bus 105, 109, 101. Rent KD75. Tele: Some, 3928121 9am-1 pm, 4-8:30 pm.

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MAIDAN Hawalli, Baghdad Street. 1 small room in a flat with tele. facilities for a Goan or Mangalorean lady. Rent KD26. Tele: Anna, 5610362, 3-7:30 pm.

(AT3-41374-3)

IN Salwa, House 196, Block 7, behind Irani shop. Two big rooms with all facilities, for a family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50 each. Tele 5611243.

(AT2-41367-6)

For Rent

SURRA, one brand new villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living and dining rooms, car parking facility. Tele: 5339280/1 any time.

(AT3-41372-3)

MISHREF, a villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, plus 3 rooms on the ground floor, with a garden. Rent KD400. Tele: 5389501, 2-4 pm only.

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FOR SALE

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KUFUMA, large dining suite, 9-seater sofa set, with 4 coffee tables and centre table. Tele: Mr Jones, 5615332, 1-7 pm.

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FOR RENT
Villas, Deluxe flats furnished and non-furnished, in Hadiya, Fahaheel, Fintis, and Abu Halifa.
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Cars

HONDA Civic 1984, red, automatic, two doors and Pontiac 1975, manual, one owner, in excellent condition. KD875 and 250 respectively. Tele: 4887482, 8 am-9 pm.

(AT4-41400-2)

BMW 730, 1979 model, carburetor, automatic, full options, sunroof, Becker radio, white, in very good condition. KD1150 cash. Tele: 4885867.

(AT4-41396-3)

CHEVROLET, Nova, 1978, automatic, blue, in good running order. KD300 cash. Tele: Elizabeth 2452880 mornings only.

(AT2-41366-3)

NISSAN Skyline, November 1983, AC, manual, in good condition, recently overhauled. Tele: Abdulla Qhader, 4717911 ext 305 or 303, 8 am-4 pm.

(AT3-41371-3)

SAAB 900 turbo, 16 valve, 65 model, silver, in excellent condition. Highest offer. Tele: H. Badr, 2413200 ext 757, 12-2 pm.

(AT4-41394-3)

MERCEDES 1983 300D, Manual, airconditioned, cream colour, 5100 km, in excellent condition. Tele: 2610351/2664887, 9 am-1 pm.

(AT3-41378-3)

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(AT2-41300-3)

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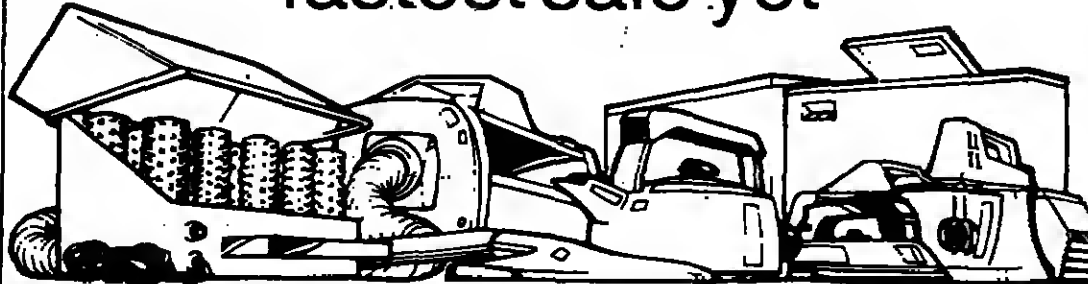
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(AT3-41386-2)

PURSE containing identity card, Civil ID, medical card and BKME auto card. Tele: Jainblal, 2422218, 2423503.

(AT4-41389-2)

ONE green coloured booklet (identification card) in the name of Antonio Jose Albino F. L. Dias entitled Cedula in Murgab/Hawalli. Suitable reward offered. Tele: Dias, 5319557/5314406, anytime.

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MAID, Filipino with 3 years experience and transferable visa, seeks full-time position with American family. Tele: Virginia, 5643317, 9 am-12:30 pm only.

(AT3-41381-3)

OFFICE work, part-time, required by an Indian youth with a transferable visa, from an employer able to provide a residence permit. Tele: Henry, 2658283, 9 am-12 pm, 4-8 pm.

(AT3-41382-2)

Vacant

MAID required for a small family. Full-time. Tele: 2654164/2658271.

(AT2-41359-3)

HOUSE boy/driver, English speaking, for a European family, for usual household duties, gardening and driving duties. Tele: 5636675 anytime.

(AT3-41377-3)

REQUIRED a maid for a small family. Part-time in Rumaihiya. English or Arabic language required. Tele: 5630016, 4-9 pm.

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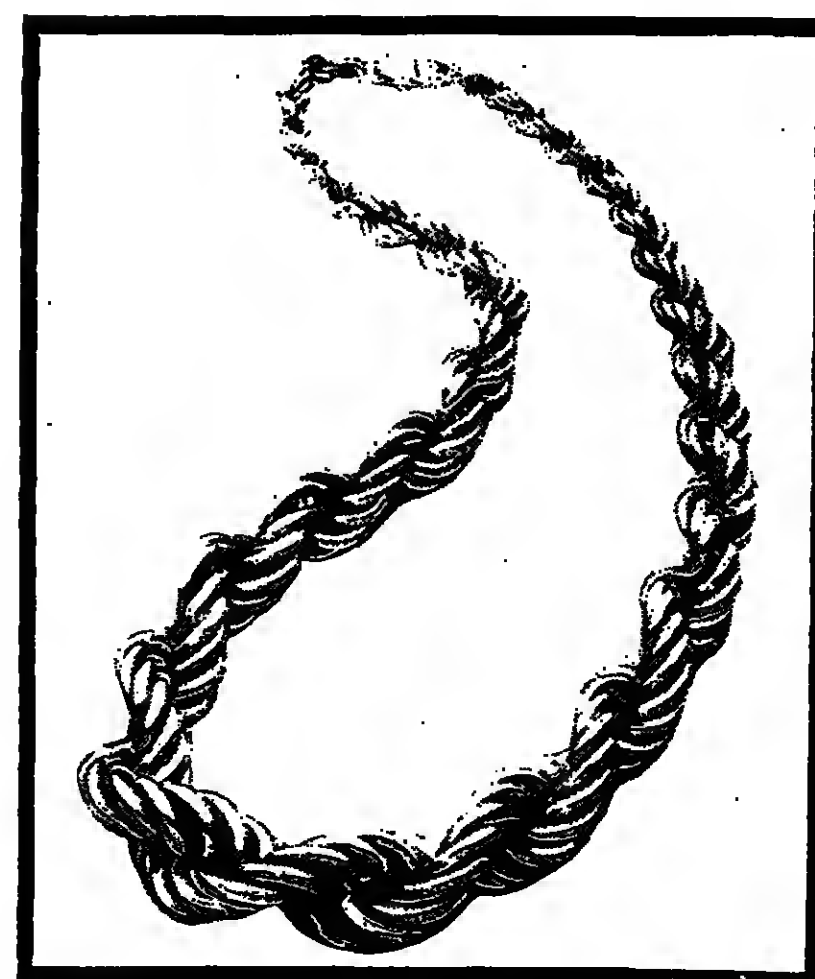
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SPORTS

Sindelar hits 12-under-par for victory

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., March 14, (Reuters): American Joey Sindelar held on through the stretch yesterday and won the PGA's \$700,000 Coral Springs Classic by two strokes over compatriots Payne Stewart, Ed Frier and Sandy Lyle of Britain.

The 29-year-old Sindelar shot a two-under-par 70 in the brisk breeze at the Eagle Trace Country Club for a 12-under-par 276 total.

It was the fourth victory of his five year career and was worth \$126,000.

Ken Brown of Britain was second to Sindelar at the start of the day but he struggled to a seven-over-par 79. His total of 286 left him in a tie for 29th place.

His most disastrous holes were at the par five eighth hole where he hit his third shot in the water and suffered a triple bogey eight. He also suffered a double bogey six at the 14th hole.

Sindelar was in control all day although in the latter stages of the round his lead dwindled to one stroke. However, Lyle and Stewart opened the door when they each bogeyed the final hole.

Sindelar had five birdies and three bogeys in his round and said: "I was really pleased with the way I made the short putts, the four and five footers. They made the difference."

Lyle had four birdies and only one bogey and trailed Sindelar by only one shot playing the last hole.

His tee shot was into a bunker and he had an awkward stance for his second shot. He hit to the right of the green, then pitched in and missed a 10-footer that would have saved his par.

"I had a lot of birdie chances early in the round," Lyle said, "but my putter wasn't working very well."

Charity one-day cricket match ruled out

WELLINGTON, March 14, (Reuters): A charity one-day cricket match between England and New Zealand to aid flood relief in areas devastated by cyclone Bola last week, has been turned down by the New Zealand Cricket Council (NZCC).

A match had been proposed for Thursday at Gisborne in the heart of the stricken area.

But the two countries play their third one-day international of a four-match series at nearby Napier on Wednesday and the final match is in Auckland on Saturday.

Arranged
"I don't think it would have been fair to play three games in four days," NZCC executive director Graham Dowling said. It could not be arranged for later because New Zealand are committed to a triangular tour in Sharjah starting on March 25.

Although five inches (12.7 cms) of rain fell in one day last week, Napier escaped much of the devastation. Officials have been battling to get the ground fit and it is reported fairly dry and playable. England lead the series 2-0.

OTTOMAR LANGE TO CO-DRIVE FOR MICHEL SALEH

Fastest line crucial, says Bin Sulayem

By Gail Seery

REIGNING Middle East Rally Champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem was yesterday the guest of honour at a press dinner organised for him and fellow Marlboro team-mates Tareq Al Wazzan and Eld Falah, at the SAS Hotel. He told the Arab Times that this year's Kuwait International Rally, to be held on Thursday and Friday, was a very fast rally — even faster than last year's event.

"As a result I'm spending time searching for the fastest line," he said. "If you can save a second per corner by having a better line, over 100 corners that's a hundred seconds."

Important

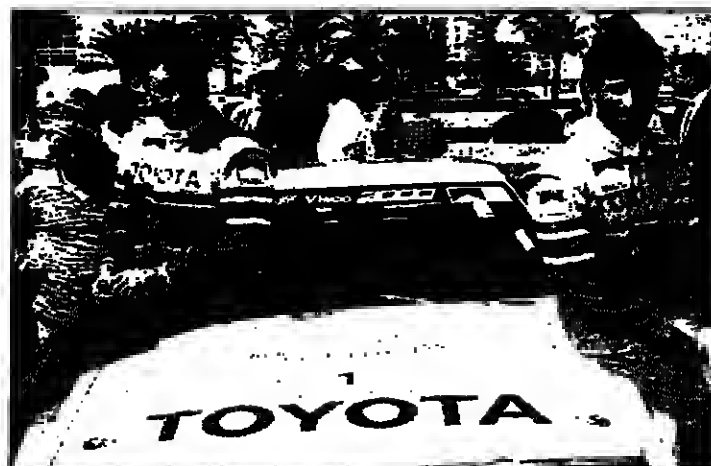
"The Audi Quattro has an advantage on every rally in the Middle East," he said, referring to Qatari rival Saeed Al Hajri's car. "It's won the World Championship twice, in 1983 and 1984, and it can certainly win the Middle East Championship."

Bin Sulayem said that he would be pushing right from the start for this rally, and that he expected average speeds of around 140 kph — with cars approaching 230 kph, "or whatever the car will give" in places.

It is very important for me to win in Kuwait. This is the second round of the Middle East Championship, and as much it's not crucial. However, the championship is more important than one rally."

Sulayem has been practising the six stages which comprise this year's event and currently has engine problems with his practice car. "That's not surprising," he said. "If you think about it the practice car has to do six times as much work as the rally car itself as we go over the stages again and again in the days leading up to the rally."

He has been pleased with his new co-driver, 33 year old Irishman Ronan Morgan, who formerly drove for Al Hajri. "Ronan is very experienced, and



Morgan (left) and Bin Sulayem



Michel Saleh

will be good for me on outside events," he said, mentioning that he expected to drive in the world championship Acropolis Rally early this summer.

Morgan added, "We have already spent one rally together, and we worked well as a team. It's important when you live together 24 hours a day that you can be good friends and get the work done." He continued, "I've been very privileged to co-drive for the two best drivers in the Middle East." He explained that he left Saeed, not because of any disharmony, but because of sponsorship problems which left plans for the season vague until the last moment. By the time the sponsors had made up their

minds, he had committed himself to Sulayem.

Mohammed Bin Sulayem and Saeed Al Hajri driving a Rothmans Audi Quattro, represent a level of driving, cars and support which other entrants cannot aspire to.

The man most likely to benefit from a mistake from either driver is Michel Saleh of Lebanon, also driving a Quattro, who has entered this event with a surprise new co-driver Kuwait's ex-B seeded driver Ottomar Lange, who has not participated in an event since last year's Kuwait International when he was post excluded as the result of an administrative misunderstanding.



Mubarak Al Hajri



Abbas Al Mousawi

ing, has agreed to come out of retirement for this event, and the two began their practice yesterday.

Abbas Al Mousawi of Qatar thinks that the stages chosen by the organisers are more suited to foreign entrants than to local drivers, as it is mainly the foreign entrants who have entered the powerful group B cars. "The stages are built for the cars in front of me," he said, referring to the Toyota Celica Turbo driven by Sulayem, and the Quattro. "I will be pushing hard — not to catch the top cars, but to stay in touch to case anything goes wrong for them." He recalled that this had been the situation in Dubai in 1986 when he came

third. However, "It's harder now than it was then."

Al Mousawi has been supported with full backing from Merch, including both practice and rally car. One disappointment was that his co-driver for the Qatar rally could not here as he was unable to get a visa. He is instead joined by Abdul Wahid Abdul Haye, who has co-driven for most of the Qataris at one time or another.

"This year I'll do the whole Middle East Championship in this Group B car," continued Mousawi. The car is a Peugeot Talbot, and whilst it cannot rank with the front runners, it outclasses most cars being driven by

local entrants.

He is very critical about the stages. "They didn't think about their own drivers, and gave all the advantage to outsiders," he alleged. However, he respects many of the local drivers. "If either Wazzan or Zafri had the car they would both be capable of getting results," he said. He looks forward to the expected advent of Group A cars next year.

A fellow Qatari entrant, is twenty two year old Mubarak Al Hajri, brother of Saeed. He is joined in the Opel Manta 400 by his cousin — also called Mubarak Al Hajri. This young driver took fourth place in the Qatar International last month, and has been tipped for a promising future.

He has gained extensive local experience, and has also driven in a few international events. He was Qatar Champion in 1984 and 85, and finished all the local rallies in Qatar.

For this rally he is being backed by Al Ghanims, and it is his first time to drive in Kuwait. He is very happy with his car, and has taken it to second place in Qatar twice.

"This rally is easier than Qatar he said. It's a good fast rally, and my cousin is an experienced co-driver."

Aiming

He doesn't feel that having the name Al Hajri is a problem for him. "Al Hajri is a lucky name for rallies," he asserts. The driver, one of the youngest entrants in the event, is aiming at 3rd or 4th place, and hopes to come in behind the factory teams. They will definitely go on to drive in the Oman and Dubai rallies, and if his placing is good in this week's event, also in Kuwait. He has no doubt as to who will win the rally, and is strong in support of his older brother.

However the young Al Hajri is adamant that he is not here for experience alone, but for points in the Middle East Championship. "I'm very grateful to my sponsors Al Ghanims," he said.

Nupsala tipped to clinch Gold Cup

French horses set to make history

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters): French riders are poised to gatecrash the Cheltenham Jump Racing Festival by lifting both the top two prizes, the Gold Cup and the Champion Hurdle, for the first time ever.

Nupsala is rated 6-1 fourth favourite for Thursday's Gold Cup, while Marly River is 5-1 second favourite for the Champion Hurdle on the opening day tomorrow.

Fate

British and Irish horses have dominated the three-day spectacle during its 86-year history, with the French over the years much more preoccupied with flat racing rather than jumps.

But this year by a stroke of fate

they have come up with two outstanding challengers at the stiff Cheltenham circuit.

Nupsala has already proved himself to Eglad, beating the best of British steeplechasers in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park in December.

Although the gelding had some good form in France, home backers were not impressed and Nupsala started at 25-1.

He has not raced since but trainer Francois Doumen is confident of another bold show providing the ground does not ride too heavy.

His task over the three and a quarter mile trip looked like being eased when Gold Cup favourite Kildimo went tem-

porarily lame last week. But he returned to serious work at the weekend and a work-out today confirmed his well-being.

Kildimo is the best horse Toby Balding has trained in over 20 years in the profession. He won the championship for novices at the festival a year ago.

Class

Kildimo was clear 7-2 favourite before his injury scare, ahead of the ever-improving Playschool at 4-1 and the 1985 winner Forgive o Forget (5-1), who also finished third in 1986.

But in the absence of last year's winner The Thinker, who has been slow to reach his peak this season, Nupsala will rarely have a better chance.

Front-running Marly River is unbeaten in nine races in his hurdling career and although five is young for a champion hurdler the horse has undoubted class.

His last run eight days ago when he brushed aside the best of the French in Paris served as a powerful reminder to the home defenders in this two-mile race.

See You Then, champion for the last three years, hobbled out of contention in his warm-up race last month, leaving Celtic Chief 5-2 favourite with most bookmakers.

He too is five but his form is hard to argue with. Last time out he beat his chief English rival for the crown, Celtic Shot, by eight lengths to record his fourth win from four races this season.

Algeria held to draw



Members of the Zaire team embrace each other after the match. (Reuters wirephoto)

CASABLANCA, March 14, (Reuters): Algeria were held to a 1-1 draw by Ivory Coast while hosts Morocco drew with Zaire by the same score on the opening day of the African Nations Cup yesterday.

Ivory Coast came from behind to force a draw after gifted midfielder Lakhdar Belloumi had volleyed Algeria ahead after only 16 minutes.

Cheered on by their drum-beating and hand-clapping supporters, Ivory Coast stormed back to equalise after the interval when Abdoulaye Traore and Youssef Fofana combined in the Algerian goalmouth.

Fofana, the "Black Diamond" of French First Division leaders Monaco, slipped the ball to Traore who scored with a deflected shot off a defender.

Earlier Morocco, the surprise team at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico where they progressed to the second round, were reduced to 10 men in their clash with Zaire and were unable to hang on to a 1-0 lead.

Veteran striker Merry Krinaw put them ahead with a 41st minute penalty against Zaire, but they were never convincing leaders and, when Abderrazak Khairy — who scored twice for Morocco against Portugal in Mexico — was sent off for a foul on Mbote Nidinka on the hour they struggled to protect their lead.

Zaire, playing in front of 80,000 Moroccans, fought back and levelled in the 89th minute when substitute Vita Luonadio fired in a powerful low shot.

Liverpool to face Forest

LONDON, March 14, (Reuters): Liverpool, firmly on course to land the English League and FA Cup double for the second time in two years, will play Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest in the Cup semifinals on April 9.

The other tie in the draw made today paired Wimbledon against Luton.

Success

Although the odds are against it, this year's final could be a repeat of 1959 when Forest beat Luton 2-1. That was the last time both sides played at Wembley in an FA Cup final.

Liverpool seem in unstoppable form and yesterday's quarter-final 4-0 success over Manchester City was achieved in typically deadly fashion.

Clough, bidding to savour his first FA Cup final in a 32-year career as player and manager, can, however, draw some consolation from previous cup encounters with Liverpool.

Forest beat Liverpool in the English League Cup final in 1978 and also in the first round of the 1978-79 European Cup.

The 2-1 victory at Arsenal on Saturday was a fine effort against a seasoned Cup side and Forest are probably one of the very few teams in Britain at present who could be given a realistic chance of upsetting the Liverpool machine.

The clubs have not yet met in the First Division this season. But they are now booked for three confrontations in the space of 11 days next month.

Real aim to oust Bayern from European Cup

MADRID, (Reuters): Though it is 30 years since they ruled Europe unchallenged and 22 years since the last of their six Champions Cup triumphs, Real Madrid remain the most evocative name in soccer.

Their early European Cup victories from 1956-60 were achieved with a swagger unmatched by any side before or since from outside Brazil. The deeds of Di Stefano, Puskas and Gento were the stuff of dreams.

Real are unlikely to approach such perfection again but on Sunday they whipped fourth-placed Athletic Bilbao 5-0 to maintain a seven point lead over Real Sociedad at the top of the Spanish League. Of marginally less importance, they have scored 72 goals in 28 games — 27 more than any other club.

Variety
Their latest win was achieved without World Cup striker Emilio Butragueno and it is the variety of Real's weaponry which must intimidate West German champions Bayern Munich, their opponents in tomorrow's European Cup quarterfinal second-leg.

Bayern struggled to a 1-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach last Saturday and will be haunted by the two late goals they allowed Real to plunder in Munich.

Real left Bavaria only 3-2 in arrears and it is difficult to see Bayern succeed where Bilbao failed. Even without



Sanchez (right) scored one goal against Bilbao

Butragueno, Real were in brilliant form with goals from 35-year-old Santillana and midfielder Michel, who scored two apiece, and Mexican Hugo Sanchez.

Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza is certain Bayern will go the way of earlier victims Napoli of Italy and 1987 European Cup winners Porto of Portugal.

"Madrid have a stupendous

team and great fighting spirit. I guarantee Bayern will be eliminated," Mendoza said.

There is markedly less optimism across Madrid at Atletico where controversial president Jesus Gil Y Gil is under fire on all fronts.

Atletico, held 0-0 by Valladolid, have gone five matches without a win and Gil accused the editor of sports news-

paper Marca of being a "clown" following an editorial criticising his running of the club.

Marca said Gil's huorger for quick results was demoralising the side. "In the last few weeks this impatience was transformed into unprecedented verbal incontinence which caused confusion in the club," the paper said.

Bayern's victory and West German League leaders Werder Bremen's 1-0 defeat at Stuttgart, saw the Bavarians move within two points of their rivals at the top.

World Cup midfielder Lotar Matthaus scored the Bayern goal but the West Germans did little to distinguish themselves.

Werder, who have lost just two games all season, will be in action in the UEFA Cup against Verona, whom they beat 1-0 in Italy.

The club are assured of the highest takings in their history. The newly renovated Weser stadium will have a capacity 40,000 crowd and Werder expect to net \$900,000 including television and advertising rights.

Having been paired with Napoli, Porto and Bayern in succeeding rounds, few neutrals would begrudge Real a seventh European Cup — a sentiment not shared in the Netherlands, however, where PSV Eindhoven are coping rather well despite the loss of Ruud Gullit to AC Milan.

PSV suffered their first League defeat of the season at Feyenoord on Sunday when they were

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